

Vest to Announce Retirement

By Keith J. Winstein
NEWS EDITOR

President Charles M. Vest, whose 13 years at MIT were marked by a dot-com era building boom and a sequence of high-profile deaths that brought dramatic changes to student life, is expected to announce today that he is stepping down, Institute sources and a student leader said. The news was first reported by *The New York Times*.

Vest, whose tenure as MIT's 15th president is the third longest, presided over a period of successful fundraising and investing that almost quadrupled MIT's endowment, despite a recent decline of more than a billion dollars.

Buoyed by the dot-com boom, the Institute started work on several ambitious and signature construction projects, including the Stata Center, the Zesiger Center, Simmons Hall, the Sidney-Pacific dormitory, the McGovern and Picower Centers, and the Media Lab Extension. (Only Zesiger and Sidney-Pacific have been completed.)

In an event that appears to have permanently subdued student life, the Institute was rocked at the midpoint of Vest's tenure by the 1997 drinking death of freshman Scott S.

Krueger '01 at a fraternity event gone awry. Vest responded by ordering all students to live in dormitories for their freshman year and announcing a crackdown on alcohol, moves that were wildly unpopular among students and brought him student enmity that still persists.

A student died here every year from 1995 through 2001, including several high-profile suicides that brought renewed attention to mental health services and much unwanted press attention on the Institute, as well as three multimillion-dollar lawsuits against MIT, each still pending.

Diversity signature issue for Vest

Vest's focus on diversity, equality, and affirmative action became a signature issue of his presidency.

"Our educational system must better serve an increasingly pluralistic society," he said in 1990 upon assuming the presidency. "Efforts to attract women and students of color and to provide an environment in which they can successfully complete their education must continue and grow increasingly effective."

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President Charles M. Vest at the beginning of his presidency.

Harvard Study Finds Binge Drinking Less Frequent on Diverse Campuses

By Megan Oglivie

White male college students may be less likely to binge drink at insti-

tutions with higher percentages of minority, female and older students, according to a study by Harvard School of Public Health researchers.

Analyzing data from 114 colleges in the United States that participated in four College Alcohol Study surveys from 1993 to 2001, researchers found that binge drinking rates of white males and underage students were significantly lower in schools that had more minority, female and older students. Dr. Henry Wechsler, director of the Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Studies Program led the study.

In response to Wechsler's findings of the moderating effects of student diversity on heavy episodic drinkers, Associate Dean of Student Life Daniel A. Trujillo thinks that MIT may be ahead of the curve.

"We do have a diverse student population, and certainly the recommendation of spreading the diversity, well, MIT already has a diverse population group," said Trujillo.

Drinking rates vary among groups

Although approximately two of every five college students are binge drinkers, rates vary among student sub-groups, according to Wechsler.

Previous studies conducted by Wechsler have found that African American, Asian, female and older students have lower rates of binge drinking (low-risk groups) than do white, male, or younger students (high-risk groups).

The study found that incoming

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BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Students crowd the electronics lab in 38-500 the night before projects are due for many classes. Rikky Muller G (left) demonstrates her 6.302 final lab project, a magnetically levitated miniature toilet complete with real toilet paper, to Katherine A. Lillenkamp G.

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Institute Will Close During Holidays

By Harris Wang

The MIT campus will be closed for 11 days from Dec. 25 until Jan. 5 in an effort to reduce operational expenses.

The closing comes at a time when the Institute is facing budget cuts following poor investment returns and a drop in MIT's endowment from \$5.4 billion to \$5.1 billion.

While essential services such as campus police and health services will be staffed as they normally are on weekends and holidays, other areas such as mail and payroll will provide very limited service, according to the Finances Web site.

Instead of normal departmental deliveries, mail and packages will be available for pickup at Mail Services in Building WW15. Time sensitive mail such as FedEx may be prearranged for special delivery. Mail to the dormitories will not be affected because the U.S. Postal Service delivers directly to the dormitories, said Marty O. Brien of Mail Services.

Paychecks will be available for pickup in Building NE49 on Wednesday, Dec. 31. The Cashier's Office in Building 10 will be closed from Dec. 25 to Jan. 4.

Saferide will operate on normal schedule while Tech Shuttle will not be available during the holiday closing days.

Residence halls will remain open as usual during the holidays because many students, especially international students, stay on campus during the winter vacation.

On-campus dining facilities will be limited. At least one on-campus food provider will be open during the break, except for on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The holiday dining schedule is posted at <http://web.mit.edu/dining>.

Closing days, not vacation days

Many employees use their vacation days around Christmas and New Year's because they want to extend their holidays. Because these days are generally "low productivity days," the Institute has decided to turn them into cost-saving days by closing parts of campus, said Executive Vice President John R. Curry.

For employees, the closing days are meant to be equivalent to Institute holidays. The closing days will not count toward employees' vacation days.

"It's a form of benefit that will offset, for quite a few people on this campus, the fact that they will not be getting raises the next year," Curry said.

Curry is not aware of any previ-

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OPINION

Chen Zhao advises Democrats to take a stand on the gay marriage issue.

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Sex and the Saferide explores the pros and cons of long distance relationships.

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WORLD & NATION

India's Leading Hindu Party Makes Gains in Elections

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI, INDIA

The Hindu nationalist party that leads India's coalition government decisively won three of four key state elections held on Monday, according to vote totals that were counted Thursday.

The results, seen as a prelude to the general elections to be held next year, were an unexpected boon for the Bharatiya Janata Party. They also provided another in a series of blows to the once-proud Indian National Congress, whose incumbent governments lost in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. The Congress Party, the base of the Nehru-Gandhi family dynasty, retained control only of Delhi.

Indian voters are strongly anti-incumbent, so in one sense the turning out of the Congress Party was no surprise. But few expected it to lose by such substantial margins. In Rajasthan, home to about 57 million people, the Bharatiya Janata Party won 120 seats to the Congress Party's 56. In Madhya Pradesh, home to 60 million people, Bharatiya Janata won 174 seats to Congress' 37.

Appeals Court Voids Part Of Widely Applied Antiterror Law

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal appeals court ruled on Wednesday that key portions of an antiterrorism law are unconstitutional because the law, relied on heavily by the Bush administration, risks ensnaring innocent humanitarians.

The ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco, throws into doubt the administration's reliance on portions of a 1996 antiterrorism law making it a crime to provide material support to groups designated as terrorists.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the material support ban has become a favorite weapon of choice for the Justice Department in a host of terrorism cases, including the prosecutions of John Walker Lindh, an American who fought with the Taliban in Afghanistan; Lynne Stewart, the defense attorney accused of helping a client pass messages to terrorist associates; and terror suspects in Lackawanna, N.Y.; Portland, Ore., and Detroit.

But the famously liberal 9th Circuit ruled that two key portions of the law were unconstitutional.

Automakers Agree to Make SUVs Sold in U.S. Safer

By Danny Hakim

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT

The auto industry, which for years has disputed critics' contentions that sport utility vehicles posed a significant danger to other vehicles in collisions, agreed Wednesday to make design changes to SUVs and pickups sold in the United States so they are less dangerous to the occupants of passenger cars.

Fifteen automakers from four nations agreed to redesign their light trucks, mostly SUVs and pickups, to reduce the likelihood that they would skip over the front bumpers of cars in collisions. They also agreed to increase protection of passengers in vehicles struck in the side, most likely by making side airbags standard equipment in vehicles sold in the United States. The changes like the airbags, which protect people's heads if their vehicles are struck in the side, are particularly aimed at helping passenger car occupants survive when struck by light trucks.

The changes, which will cost about \$300 a vehicle and be phased in between 2007 and 2009, will probably save thousands of lives annually, according to projections included in a letter released Wednesday.

Bush Rescinds 21-Month-Old Tariffs on All Steel Imports

By Richard W. Stevenson and Elizabeth Becker

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Citing an improving economy and cost-cutting efforts by domestic steel makers, President Bush lifted tariffs on imported steel on Thursday, averting a trade war with Europe but risking a political backlash in some industrial states heading into the 2004 election.

Twenty-one months after imposing the tariffs and saying they would remain in place for as long as three years to help the struggling industry, Bush said he would rescind them as of midnight on Thursday.

The announcement of his decision immediately led the European Union to drop its plan to retaliate with tariffs on a variety of U.S. exports from states vital to Bush's political fortunes, including Florida and Michigan.

Despite hopes within the industry that the tariffs would be lifted gradually or that steel companies would receive additional government help in offsetting the costs of union health and pension benefits, Bush announced no new steps to aid or protect steel mak-

ers and their workers.

The president said he would continue a program to monitor steel imports closely to detect any destabilizing surges of cheap foreign steel. The United States would also continue pressing other nations to stop subsidizing their own inefficient steel producers, he said.

In a written statement explaining the shift, Bush did not mention the threat from Europe or the ruling against the United States on the permissibility of the tariffs by the World Trade Organization, the international body that sets trade rules.

The president instead cast the decision as driven by improvements in the outlook for domestic steel producers since he imposed the tariffs in March 2002.

He said steel makers were benefiting from the economic recovery, new labor agreements, stable prices, increased efficiency and the assumption by the government of some of the industry's pension obligations.

"I took action to give the industry a chance to adjust to the surge in foreign imports and to give relief to the workers and

communities that depend on steel for their jobs and livelihoods," Bush said in the statement. "The safeguard measures have now achieved their purpose, and as a result of changed economic circumstances, it is time to lift them."

But Pascal Lamy, the top European trade official, immediately took credit for Bush's decision, telling a news conference in Brussels, Belgium, "I am pleased to announce that all our efforts have worked."

Lamy said Europe would drop its threat of \$2.2 billion in sanctions in the form of additional tariffs on U.S. products and would also eliminate countertariffs it had already imposed on U.S. steel.

The president's decision to abandon the tariffs was welcomed by advocates of unfettered trade and by representatives of states and industries that were paying the price for the trade protection in the form of higher steel prices.

"Too many Iowa manufacturers faced increased production costs because of these tariffs," Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, said in a statement supporting Bush's decision.

U.S. Companies Work to Help Reconstruct Economy of Iraq

By Michael Janofsky

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ARLINGTON, VA.

The room had the feel of a souk, a constant buzz, chatter in lots of languages, display tables showing off wares.

In fact, it was a marketplace of sorts, just off the lobby of a Sheraton hotel here, but one with a specific purpose: More than 400 people from 30 countries had gathered Wednesday and Thursday for a conference focusing on how to rebuild Iraq and get a piece of the \$18.3 billion Congress has authorized for the effort. There were bankers, architects, lawyers, engineers, real estate developers, insurance agents, construction specialists, transportation experts, communication company owners,

investment counselors and more than 40 Iraqi officials working with the Coalition Provisional Authority, who were eager to meet as many suitors as possible.

If the participants conveyed a common message it was this: Despite suicide bombers, snipers and sneak attacks from Saddam Hussein loyalists, Iraq is open for business.

There were sobering reminders of the daily dangers that confront both military personnel and civilians, including one company selling vehicle armor protection and another selling walls so strong that they could withstand 50 mm rounds. "We're working on one now that will be able to sustain shoulder-fired rocket attack," said Prentice Perry, vice president of the wall company, Ther-

ma Steel. The company motto, he said, is, "We stand behind our walls."

But for the most part, the networking was upbeat, as business and government leaders sought each other out as potential partners in the enormous task of reconstructing the country.

"Our purpose is to help United States companies connect with Middle Eastern countries and with individual Iraqis with lots of emphasis on the alliances already on the ground," said Samir Farajallah, president of New Fields, the United Arab Emirates company that organized this meeting and another one last month for the authority. "You hear a lot of negative stories out of Iraq, but the truth of the matter is, there are a lot of very successful stories."

WEATHER

Weekend Snow

By Robert L. Korty

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A storm that swept across the country this week will reorganize and intensify off the Mid-Atlantic coast this afternoon. As it heads northeast, heavy snow will spread across southern New England. There will be a sharp boundary between dry air over northern New England and a storm intense enough to deposit a foot of snow. The numerical weather model output makes a major snow storm appear likely, but a complicating factor is the mild ocean temperature. As it is only early December, the water is still 46°F (8°C), which is warm enough to allow a rain and sleet to mix with any snow falling in Boston and along the coast.

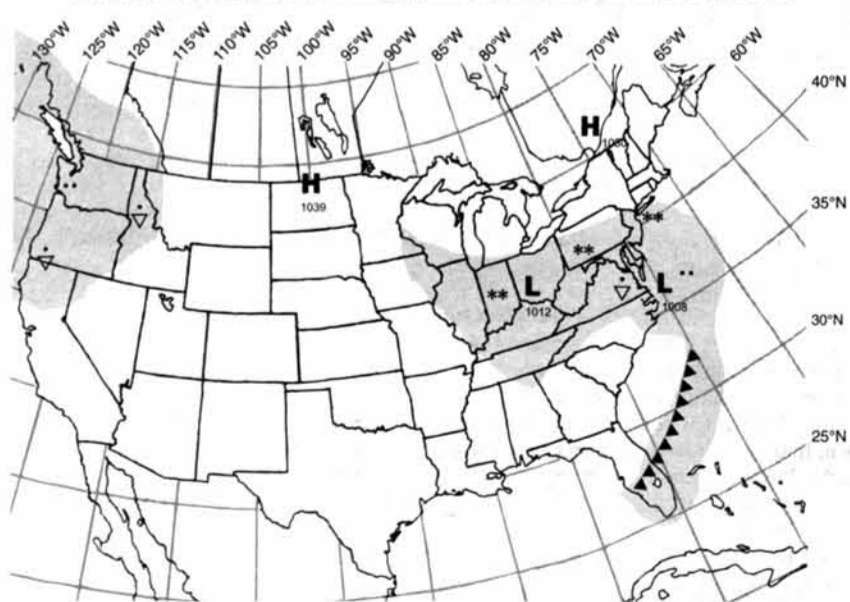
Only on five occasions during the past 135 years has there been six inches or more of snow in Boston, largely owing to the relatively mild ocean temperature this time of year.

Snow will develop late Friday night, but may mix with sleet and rain and taper in intensity Saturday morning. By afternoon, precipitation should become heavy and turn to all snow as temperatures fall. Snow will continue to be heavy Saturday night before ending early Sunday. It looks fairly certain that the first sizeable snowfall of the 2003-04 season will begin tonight and continue through Sunday morning with accumulations between 6 and 12 inches across most of eastern Massachusetts; these could be a little less in the city if snow mixes with rain.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy. High 32°F (0°C).
Tonight: Snow. Low 25°F (-4°C).
Saturday: Snow and sleet early, becoming heavy and all snow during the afternoon. High 30°F (-1°C), dropping into the 20s F (-1°C) late.
Saturday night: Snow, heavy at times. Low 25°F (-4°C).
Sunday: Becoming partly cloudy. High 36°F (2°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, December 5, 2003



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	—•— Warm Front	Light * *	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	—▲— Cold Front	Moderate ** *	Haze
	—▲— Stationary Front	Heavy * *	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Newly-Found Fossil Hailed as World's Earliest Recorded Male

By James Gorman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A 425-million-year-old fossil found in Herefordshire, England, may be the oldest record of an animal that is unarguably male. Scientists report Friday in the journal *Science* that the tiny crustacean, only two-tenths of an inch long, had an unmistakable penis.

In their paper, the scientists name the creature *Colymbosathon eplecticos*, which they say means swimmer with a large penis.

David J. Siveter, a geologist at the University of Leicester, said that although this was his literal translation of the Greek, it may, like so many other references to virility in males, be a bit of an exaggeration.

Colymbosathon, he said, was not remarkable among its group of crustaceans, the ostracodes. Some have copulatory organs one-third the length of their bodies, he said, and some produce sperm 10 times the length of their bodies. *Colymbosathon* is more modest; its penis was less than a fifth of its body

length.

Siveter's colleagues, who contributed to the research, were Derek E.G. Briggs of Yale and Mark D. Sutton and Derek J. Siveter, both of Oxford. The Siveters are twins.

There are many fossils, some earlier, that paleontologists judge to be male by overall size or other characteristics. But fossils may be a bit like the ultrasound images that prospective parents inspect so carefully — only the presence of a penis is considered definitive.

Ostracode shells are common fossils and used in studies of ancient climate and of the pace of evolution. They are also used in oil exploration to help determine the age of drilled cores. And modern ostracodes are everywhere. They are common in oceans, shallow seas, rivers and lakes.

What is more remarkable than the sex of the fossil, Siveter said, is that it pushes back the presence of ostracodes 200 million years. Some fossils were presumed to be ostracodes, but with no soft body parts it

was hard to know for sure, and such fossils are exceedingly rare.

The new fossil, of calcite found in volcanic ash, has modern descendants that are almost exactly the same, down to two hairs on the end of its swimming appendages.

It also offers a striking example of evolution almost standing still. "This," Siveter said, "is an animal whose basic ground plan hasn't changed in 425 million years." It has evolved hardly at all.

A geologist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Va., Thomas M. Cronin, who uses ostracodes in a variety of research, said that it was "unbelievable to see the similarity with the living forms."

Cronin also praised the detail with which the fossil was reconstructed. Siveter and colleagues ground the fossil down 20 microns (one one-thousandth of an inch) at a time, taking a digital photograph at each step. The photographs were combined in a computer to create a precise, three-dimensional, virtual reconstruction.

U.S. Hospitals, Doctors Criticize Medicare Reimbursement System

By Reed Abelson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SALT LAKE CITY

By better educating doctors about the most effective pneumonia treatments, Intermountain Health Care, a network of 21 hospitals in Utah and Idaho, says it saves at least 70 lives a year. By giving the right drugs at discharge time to more people with congestive heart failure, Intermountain saves another 300 lives annually and prevents almost 600 additional hospital stays.

But under Medicare, none of these good deeds go unpunished.

Intermountain's initiatives have cost it millions of dollars in lost hospital admissions and lower Medicare reimbursements. In the mid-'90s, for example, it made an average profit of 9 percent treating pneumonia patients; now, delivering better care, it loses an average of several hundred dollars on each case.

"The health care system is perverse," said a frustrated Dr. Brent C. James, who leads Intermountain's efforts to improve quality. "The payments are perverse. It pays us to harm patients, and it punishes us when we don't."

Intermountain's doctors and executives are in a swelling van-

guard of critics who say that Medicare's payment system is fundamentally flawed.

Medicare, the nation's largest purchaser of health care, pays hospitals and doctors a fixed sum to treat a specific diagnosis or perform a given procedure, regardless of the quality of care they provide. Those who work to improve care are not paid extra, and poor care is frequently rewarded, because it creates the need for more procedures and services.

The Medicare legislation that President Bush is expected to sign on Monday calls for studies and a few pilot programs on quality improvement, but experts say that it does little to reverse financial disincentives to improving care.

"Right now, Medicare's payment system is at best neutral and, in some cases, negative, in terms of quality — we think that is an untenable situation," said Glenn M. Hackbarth, the chairman of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, an independent panel of economists, health care executives and doctors that advises Congress on such issues as access to care, quality and what to pay health care providers.

In a letter published in the current edition of *Health Affairs*, a

scholarly journal, more than a dozen health care experts, including several former top Medicare officials, urged the program to take the lead in overhauling payment systems so that they reward good care.

"Despite a few initial successes, the inertia of the health system could easily overwhelm nascent efforts to raise average performance levels out of mediocrity," they wrote. "Decisive change will occur only when Medicare, with the full support of the administration and Congress, creates financial incentives that promote pursuit of improved quality."

Medicare's top official is quick to agree that the payment system needs to be fixed. "It's one of the fundamental problems Medicare faces," said Thomas A. Scully, who as the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has encouraged better care by steps like publicizing data about the quality of nursing home and home-health care and by experimenting with programs to reward hospitals for their efforts.

But the steps taken so far have been small, and many experts say that rather than paying for more studies, Congress should start making significant changes to the way doctors and hospitals are paid.

U.S. Secretary of State Urges NATO To Have a Greater Presence in Iraq

By Christopher Marquis
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on Thursday urged NATO to consider expanding its activities in Iraq, in the Bush administration's most pointed appeal for international help since it went to war last spring.

Powell stopped short of making a specific request from NATO, presenting the proposal as an idea that merited discussion. He also called for a "more robust" role for the United Nations in Iraq.

Ministers in the 26-nation security organization — some of whom staunchly opposed the war that toppled the Iraqi government — reacted coolly to the proposal, with some suggesting that NATO already has its hands full in nearby Afghanistan. But none of them opposed the idea outright, ministers said.

The exchange, at a regularly scheduled meeting of NATO diplomats, was the sharpest indication yet

from the Bush administration that it seeks to share the costs and sacrifices of rebuilding Iraq with international partners, even if that means surrendering a measure of operational control.

Faced with a self-imposed summer deadline to transfer authority to an interim government, U.S. officials also appear eager to confer greater international legitimacy on the effort as they wrestle with political challenges and terror attacks in Iraq.

The administration is testing the waters after a series of devastating attacks on allies who have backed the United States in Iraq, bringing recent casualties to Italy, Britain, Turkey, Spain and Japan. All of those governments have said their support will not waver, though public sentiment is rising against it.

"The United States welcomes a greater NATO role in Iraq's stabilization," Powell told his colleagues in a speech on Thursday. "We welcome a more robust United Nations

role as well."

Noting that the United Nations has already approved a resolution to encourage the engagement of multilateral and regional groups to rebuild Iraq, Powell pressed the ministers to prepare for action by next June, when the NATO heads of state meet in Turkey.

"As we prepare for the Istanbul Summit, we urge the Alliance to examine how it might do more to support peace and stability in Iraq, which every leader has acknowledged is critical to all of us," he said.

Turning to the United Nations, which drastically scaled back its operations in Iraq after the bombing of its headquarters this fall, Powell said that a new Security Council resolution would not be necessary for the United Nations to claim a prominent role in the reconstruction. In a meeting in his home last month, he prodded Kofi Annan SM '72, the organization's secretary-general, to find a way back into the country, Powell said.

Boston Archbishop Residence Will Be Sold to Help Compensate Abuse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston said on Wednesday that to help pay for an \$85 million settlement to compensate hundreds of clergy sex abuse victims, it will sell the grand archbishop's residence, the palatial quarters that housed Boston's Catholic Church leaders for 75 years.

The residence, modeled after an Italian palazzo and appointed in marble and mahogany, had become a despised symbol during the sexual abuse crisis. As the home of then-Archbishop Bernard F. Law, the residence in the neighborhood of Brighton represented what many perceived as the archdiocese's indifference to the plight of its abused and angry parishioners.

In fact, when Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley took the place this summer of Law, who resigned under pressure, he quickly decided that he would not live in the residence, and moved into a small rectory behind the city's cathedral, a good distance from Brighton in a more urban setting.

New York City Agrees To Release 9/11 Records

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In an abrupt reversal, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City announced on Wednesday that he had agreed to release records of emergency 911 calls and other materials sought by the federal commission investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bloomberg's action comes nearly two weeks after the commission announced that it had issued a subpoena to New York City for records related to the attacks. The panel said that the city's refusal to turn over the information had "significantly impeded" its investigation.

Initially, Bloomberg said he intended to challenge the federal subpoena, arguing that the request was "ghoulish" and that complying with it would invade the privacy of the victims' families.

But with the deadline for complying with the subpoena looming, the Bloomberg administration reached a deal with the commission that seemed to address the privacy concerns raised by the mayor even as it gave the commission access to the materials it has been demanding. The city had until Wednesday to comply with the subpoena.

Boeing Behind Schedule, Over Cost On Spy Satellite Program

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Boeing Co. is running more than a year behind schedule and billions of dollars over cost on a highly classified program to build the next generation of reconnaissance satellites, forcing the government to shift an estimated \$4 billion from other spy programs, senior government officials said on Wednesday.

The Boeing project was initially set at about \$6 billion, but the National Reconnaissance Office had to add substantially to that figure to address what auditors described as large problems with the program, the officials said. Even so, the officials said, the reconnaissance office has had to scale back its expectations for the satellites' initial performance to well below what Boeing had promised.

Boeing is now under scrutiny for improprieties related to other Pentagon deals, including a \$20 billion contract to provide aerial refueling tankers to the Air Force. The problems with the satellite program are not related to that deal, but Boeing's involvement in the spy satellite business is part of a broader effort by the company to increase its share of federal contracts, and the delays and cost overruns have become a further source of deep strain between the company and the government.

Judge Voids Colorado School Voucher Law

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Denver judge struck down Colorado's new school voucher law on Wednesday, ruling that it violated the state constitution by stripping local school boards of their control over education.

"The goals of the voucher program are laudable," wrote District Judge Joseph E. Meyer III. "However, even great ideas must be implemented within the framework of the Colorado Constitution."

The Colorado voucher law, enacted in April and scheduled to take effect with the next school year, would have made vouchers available to low-income, low-achieving students in school districts with eight or more low-performing schools. Other districts would have had the choice of participating or not. But the ruling blocked implementation of the plan, known officially as the Colorado Opportunity Contract Pilot Program.

Gov. Bill Owens said he would appeal the ruling. "Securing school choice for the children of Colorado was a long legislative struggle and there was always the likelihood the struggle would extend to the courts as well," he said in a statement. "Children from low-income families should not be facing a dead end if they are in a school that is below par. They deserve a choice and that is why we will appeal the court's decision."

The lead plaintiff in the challenge to the voucher plan was the Colorado PTA, which was represented by lawyers from the Colorado Education Association and the National Education Association. Other religious and advocacy groups were also plaintiffs, along with several individuals.

Opponents of the voucher plan, which budget officials estimated would ultimately take \$90 million a year out of the participating districts, argue that the loss of that money and the departure of so many students would undermine the public schools.

The Colorado Education Association, which represents 37,000 teachers in the state, hailed the ruling as an important victory for local control.

OPINION

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Research shows unhappy people are more susceptible to colds...



Letter To The Editor

Praise the Lord?

Why is it morally wrong to deny gays the right to marry? To what absolute standard of morality do groups making this claim appeal? While advocates of same-sex marriage have only to fall back upon their own opinions and reasoning, Christians believe the God of love has already given the world a moral code which enables us as tainted human beings to live in the ultimate freedom. Leviticus 18:22 states, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable." Christians maintain that this command was instituted in 1440 BC by the Being who created mankind long before man established any laws of his own. This mandate is surrounded by prohibitions against incest, sacrificing one's children and having sexual relations with animals. While some believe that acceptance of forbidden practices will lead society to "a better future" ("A Victory for Gays," Dec. 2), the Bible

promises a future of unimaginable pleasures for those who resist these same indulgences: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). Love and obedience are complementary.

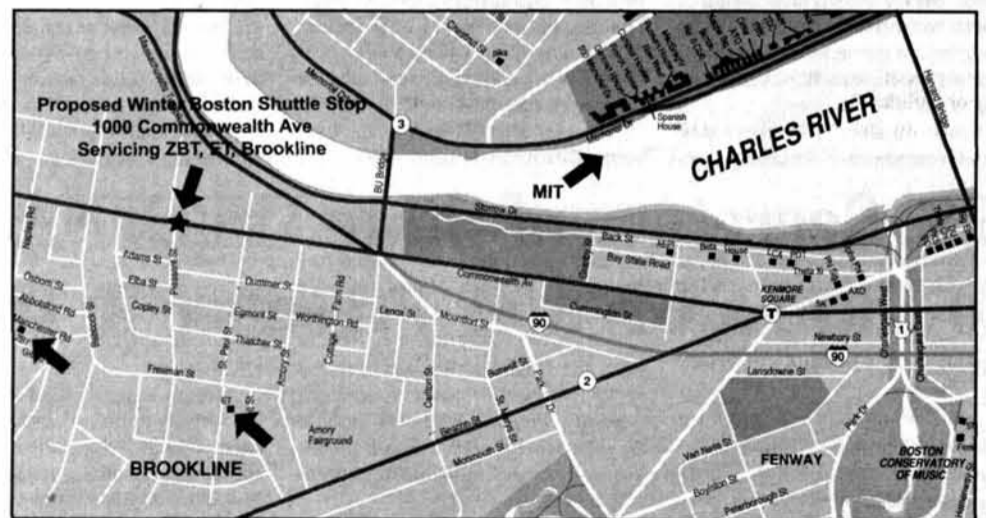
Christians hold to the truth that God witnesses every action on earth, including all marriages. Marriage was intended to only take on one form: "from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' And He said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united in to one'" (Matthew 19:4-6). Based on the promises of Scripture, I was deeply saddened to read front-page stories of homosexual couples proclaiming, "This is the happiest day [the day the ban on same-sex marriage was lifted] of our lives," because they are missing out on the greatest joy imaginable by settling for this lesser joy. The Bible teaches people to

love sinners (as all of us are) but to hate the sin (I daily despise the sin in my own life). Jesus chose to spend his short life among lepers, tax collectors, and prostitutes whom he loved enough to die for. Jesus never condoned their sins, though, because he knew the greater happiness that would accompany freedom from these sins. Jesus told his followers, "If you hold to my teaching ... Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). This is real freedom. Likewise, genuine Christians do not oppose homosexual marriage to serve their own selfish agendas; we passionately want others to know true wholeness. In "Can We Separate Church and State?" (Nov. 21) I was thankful for one thing: it opened with the expression, "Praise the Lord [!]," and these three words could never be echoed across this campus enough.

Sara Vassallo
Lab Technician

Erratum

A map accompanying the Nov. 25 article about the new proposed winter shuttle stops ["Winter Shuttle May Add Brookline Stop"] gave incorrect locations for Zeta Beta Tau, Epsilon Theta, and the new proposed stop for the Boston winter shuttle. The map placed ZBT two blocks east of its actual location, ET one block east, and the proposed stop two streets west. Please see the corrected map at right.



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, opinion editor, a senior editor, and a photography editor.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. 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, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters

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The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

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 whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

A Matter of Conviction

Chen Zhao

Now, I'm as much a loyal Democrat as the next person and I reflexively cringe when criticism is directed towards the party or a Democratic politician. I am also cynical enough to understand that politicians are among the most opportunistic people on the face of the planet and that only the most idealistic of us can truly believe that politicians stick to their principles all the time. However, on the issue of gay marriage, I believe that the Democratic candidates need to stop screwing around and take a firm position.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts recently ruled that bans on gay marriage are inherently unconstitutional. This decision has caused many ripples in the state and the country.

Governor Mitt Romney said that he would work for a state constitutional amendment to overturn it. President George Bush said that he "will work with congressional leaders and others to do what is legally necessary to defend the sanctity of marriage." Although I cannot in any way agree with these points of view, I have to say that George Bush and Mitt Romney may be completely off track, but at least they are taking a strong stance on this very important issue.

Of course, it is harder for the Democratic candidates to decide where they want to fall on this issue since polls have shown that most Americans are against gay marriage (for example, 59 percent according to a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press and 61 percent in a CNN/Gallup/USA Today poll.) The Republicans can confidently stick with their conserv-

ative point of view, whereas if Democrats do the same thing, then they have to worry about offending the majority of Americans — otherwise known as voters in the 2004 presidential election.

But, hey, life is tough and we all have to make decisions sometimes when we don't want to. Yes, it would be easier for the candidates to just ignore the issue of gay marriage until after the presidential election, sort of like how Arnold Schwarzenegger told the media that he would not give the details about his groping numerous random women until after the California recall election. Arnold can hardly be considered the greatest political role model; this is the same guy who was quoted as saying, "I think that gay marriage should be between a man and a woman."

Right after the court decision was announced, most of the Democratic candidates came out with somewhat contradictory statements saying that while they support legal rights for same-sex couples, they do not support gay marriage. When asked about a Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, they voiced very strong opposition to such an idea. Of course, support for the amendment would result in nothing less than political suicide in the Democratic primary. In the general election, however, opposing the amendment would make them vulnerable to attacks from Republicans and the majority of the country.

I believe that I am hardly alone when I say the Democrats just come off sounding stupid by refusing to take a side. After all, when one tries to please everyone, one usual-

ly ends up pleasing no one.

Reverend Al Sharpton is one of the few Democratic candidates who openly support gay marriage. He says that he would happily perform a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple. Needless to say, Sharpton also has a slim to none chance of winning or even coming close to winning the Democratic nomination. So, he really has nothing to lose by taking a risk and speaking his mind.

While Sharpton may not be the ideal candidate, the other candidates definitely should follow suit when it comes to this thorny issue. It may be a risk now to openly support legal recognition of gay marriage, but, as history has shown us, society does progress. The majority of Americans may not be in favor of gay marriages now, but think of everything that the majority of Americans have been against in the past that are perfectly acceptable now. Just to name a few: integrated schools, women's rights, saying the word "penis" on television, and string bikinis. In the near future, these candidates may very well have to retract their current opinions and appear to contradict themselves.

Look where being indecisive got John Kerry. In the wake of Sept. 11, he voted to allow President Bush to use force in Iraq. Later, after the war became a quagmire, he did not quite do a 180, but he definitely turned a good 150 degrees or so and decided that the war was unjustified. In an effort to convince anti-war Democrats that he could be their candidate, he voted against giving Bush the \$87 million that he wanted. Instead of being viewed as a good anti-war Democrat, he came off as being fickle.

That is not what these candidates need right now. They need to simply stop evading the question and voice a definite opinion one way or another. After all, I believe that Americans want, or at least should want, politicians with firm convictions.

... Democrats just come off sounding stupid by refusing to take a side [on gay marriage].

The Ombudsman

A Look at the News Assignment Process

John A. Hawkinson

I've heard criticism of recent *Tech* issues, suggesting that there hasn't been enough meritorious news. Last issue's news stories were: "Students Should Get Flu Shot, MIT Says," "Smith is New BC House-Master," and "IFC, ASA Develop Easier Recognition Procedure." The previous issue: "Winter Shuttle May Add Brookline Stop," "City Stops Short on Gay Marriage," "Wet' Frat Parties to Be By Invite Only, IFC Says," "Alterations and Additions' Under Committee's Scrutiny," and "Community Gears Up For Holiday."

In an informal discussion, Chris T. Lesniewski-Laas G suggested, "Couldn't *The Tech* try putting out half as many issues that were twice as good?" (he went on to suggest twice as much editorial and reporting work per story). It seems worth trying to explain the process by which the news department assigns news stories.

This term's assignment process

1. Story ideas (tips) get sent in to the news department (via e-mail to news@the-tech.mit.edu). There aren't as many tips as there should be, I think. That address is read by the news editors.
2. A news editor (usually Beckett Sterner) summarizes collected tips and e-mails them out to the news writers, usually once per week before the news meeting. Writers are encouraged to take assignments over e-mail, but this rarely happens.
3. On Sundays at 5 p.m., the news department meets. All news editors and writers are expected to attend. I (the Ombudsman) try to show up, too. At news meetings, news staff brainstorm about additional story ideas and the news editors attempt to assign stories to writers. Additionally, writers discuss existing story status, etc.
4. After the news meeting, news writers are e-mailed a summary of available stories and who has been assigned to what.
5. News stories for Tuesday's issue are theoretically due at 6 p.m. on Sunday, but are frequently allowed to slip until Monday evening.
6. News stories for Friday's issue are due at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, and only some-

times slip until Thursday evening.

Last term's process

Last term's process was similar, but the crux of it differed. Then-news Director Keith Winstein took tips, evaluated them, and only presented a subset to the writers. He says, "I decided what I thought should be in the paper."

Though this raised concerns about selection bias, I think it produced a better paper.

Efficacy of the current process

Writers don't have sufficient opportunity to take story assignments outside of news meetings, nor do they get information about available stories as quickly as might be liked.

News editors have had a hard time getting writers to accept assignments. Ideally writers should take assignments that are due a week or more out, but this doesn't seem to happen. Editors have also had poor success getting news writers to accept assignments over e-mail, so most assignment happens at meetings.

News Director Jennifer Krishnan thinks the news "assignment process went better last term." She contends that the assignment process is driven by the experience of the news writer pool. Last term had more experienced news writers; this term, "the staffers that we have who have written a lot of stories seem to have lost interest in being at *The Tech*."

She's right to a certain extent, but I think the editors need to work harder at convincing writers to take assignments, and to take them with sufficient time to develop them well.

Krishnan also observed that this term, news editors have been writing less and editing more: "The amount of story-taking from the news editors is not as high as it has been." She finds this good because news editors can devote their time and energy to editing, but bad because it reduces the number of "quality writers in the writer pool."

The practice of assigning stories on Sunday for Tuesday issues leads to weak stories and less time to work on them. The news department should try harder to assign Tues-

day stories eight days in advance of their deadline, rather than one.

In line with Chris's concern about editing time, writer/editor communication needs to improve. Sitting in the newsroom watching *The Tech* come together on Ads Night (two nights before the issue prints) and Issue Night (the night before the issue prints), most news editing doesn't happen until late on Issue Night.

Even when a story comes in before Ads Night, if an editor doesn't see it until Issue Night, there's still no time for writers to do additional reporting and interviews to answer an editor's concerns. (Sometimes news editors edit stories on Ads Night, but not consistently.)

Tuesday's Editorial and Opinion sections

Tuesday we had another hollow editorial with no interviews.

It repeats an error seen in the popular press, asserting "the SJC decision forces the state legislature to change the law to comply with the ruling within 180 days." In fact, gay marriage will be legal 180 days from Nov. 18 if the legislature does nothing (see Martinek, Paul J. "What happens now?" at <http://www.masslaw.com/goodridge1.cfm>).

The editorial also contained the choice sentence, "The court recognized that the benefits of civil marriage should not be denied to those couples who wish to make these commitments, lest the members of these couples become legally inferior to their opposite-sex counterparts, which is a clear violation of several statutes underlining equal protection in the state constitution."

A statute is a law; there cannot be several in the constitution. Asked to explain, editorial board presiding member Andrew Thomas declined to comment, two other members claimed to have abstained (no evidence of abstention was printed), and two thought it was an error.

On the plus side, I was pleased to see direct quotes in an opinion piece ("MacGregor's Space And Alcohol Policies" by Jolene Singh '05). Real research in opinion pieces! We need more of this.

The *Tech's Ombudsman welcomes your feedback*, to ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu. His opinions are his own.

Revitalizing On-Campus Buildings

Pius Uzamere and Jacob Faber

MIT is revitalizing the east side of campus by adding emerging academic centers, most notably the Stata Center. This incredible building, along with the new brain and cognitive sciences project and proposed additions to the Media Lab and Sloan School, will shift the focus of campus activities towards the east. As more of the MIT community spends time here, our facilities and infrastructure must be ready to accommodate the increased student life demand.

Unfortunately, amidst MIT's blitz of academic renovations and improvements on the east side of campus, there is a lack of commensurate investment in student life-related facilities upgrades in the vicinity. The east side has been receiving new academic buildings while new dorms, athletic facilities, and dining option upgrades have tended to land west of Massachusetts Avenue. In fact, the east side is losing a dining facility and the dormitories are overdue for renovation. East Campus and Senior House are home to hundreds of undergraduates. The needs of this community must be addressed.

Certainly, with the Stata Center promised to open in the spring of 2004, the east side will see many improvements in this regard. The building features athletics facilities, classrooms, dining services, library amenities, and many other programs that will directly impact student lives. However, the Stata Center alone will not be enough. The Walker Memorial building offers a fantastic opportunity, particularly now that the dining function will be taken offline.

The Walker Memorial building deserves the same imaginative design, technological upgrades, and financial investment as MIT's trendier new construction. As our campus evolves through the addition of new buildings and facilities, we must look to our older buildings for solutions to student life and learning concerns, as well as soaring construction costs. This is particularly relevant considering the current economic climate.

We would like to see an investment in student lounge space. The effect of the simple addition of several couches and good lighting to the Stratton Student Center lobby has been tremendous. This area is now so popular that, for most of the day, it is difficult to find seating. Emulating, improving upon, and implementing this model on the east side of campus is necessary. The Undergraduate Association is working through a committee to find and develop a small space with furniture, a microwave, and entertainment such as a stereo or television.

The Association of Student Activities has been advocating for more student office space for a long time now. The number of undergraduate and graduate student groups has exploded over the past few years, and continues to do so. Many of these groups need space to run their operations and store the tools and hardware of their various functions. There must be an investment in such space and Walker Memorial is conveniently located for such a purpose.

There are obviously many other possibilities for this building. For example, the Undergraduate Association's senator representing off-campus students, Katherine Allen, is working on finding a kitchen space that could be used during the day by undergraduates living in apartments or involved in the Senior Segue program. Another possibility is having scheduled hours at Mors Hall during which some of our numerous theater, dance, and performing arts groups could utilize the space.

We realize that to achieve the potential of Walker Memorial, a substantial investment is required. The estimate that has been publicized is \$50 million. While far from a trivial amount, this is considerably less than the millions of dollars earmarked for the additions to the Sloan School, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, the Media Lab, and dormitories. As the leadership of the Undergraduate Association, we feel that this financial commitment is necessary for the future development of the MIT campus.

Pius Uzamere II and Jacob Faber are the Undergraduate Association president and vice president.

On Being Shot (In the Head)

Michael Borucke

On Thursday, Nov. 20, tens of thousands marched on Miami to protest the Free Trade Area of the Americas meetings that were taking place there. Instead of talking about the agreement, however, I want to discuss an unusual experience that I had while in Miami — namely, getting shot by the police. However, I need to explain the circumstances surrounding the shot so as to convey as accurately as my personal perspective will allow the brutality and impunity with which the police acted.

The large union march against the FTAA organized by Teamsters, Steelworkers, and AFL-CIO members had ended in the late afternoon on Thursday. The unionists then went to an amphitheater, leaving the more radical demonstrators on the street. Earlier, the police had diverted the march from its permitted route, resulting in a march through Miami's industrial sector. Many felt disappointed that people were bringing our message of resistance to corporate-driven so-called "free trade" to a bunch of cement mixers, dump trucks, and vacant buildings, but to almost no people.

The radicals eventually marched to the police line twenty meters in front of the security fence that surrounded the hotel in which trade ministers had their meeting. I was ten meters away from the cop line when the radi-

cals confronted them and started chanting. After fifteen minutes, cops began launching tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Let me be clear: from my vantage point — ten meters away atop a two-meter electrical box — it was the police that initiated what some would call an attack, and others would call riot control. When the tear gas did not disperse the demonstrators, police began marching to move the crowd back physically. Some cops had large wooden batons, and some had riot shields. They carried various types of arms, including paintball guns, rifles, and a gun with a large barrel that I could have mistaken for a grenade launcher if I didn't know better.

After being pushed back by indiscriminate fire of assorted ammunition, including paintball pellets and bean bags, the crowd was swept into a side street. Then another police line behind them prevented the crowd from moving back any further. At this point, my two friends and I found ourselves in the front of the crowd, not more than twenty meters away from the police line. After a brief cessation of firing, a second line of police moved in front of the first, at which time the firing recommenced. My two friends were holding their hands up in a peace sign, while I was next to them, wearing a gas mask, and waving a black shirt I had found on the street.

All of the sudden, there was a thud on the right side of my ear; I temporarily went deaf, except for the loud ringing in my ears. I had

been hit dead on by a rubber bullet, and my ear bled pretty easily. At the same time, my friend had been hit in the diaphragm by a hard translucent plastic pellet with a metal core, knocking the wind out of him. Medics escorted me to a wellness center where many injured activists had already been treated. I spoke to three people with head wounds; one person got it in the neck, one had a large bump on her forehead above her eyes, and one had gotten hit inches above his left eye. When I got stitched up at the hospital, I spoke to another activist who got sixteen stitches above her right eyebrow. The doctor who stitched me said there was one protester needing surgery, and one that had orbital damage.

I haven't even told you about the retired persons who were arrested, the undercover cops, the agent provocateurs who charged protesters with felonies for walking to their hotels, or the illegal searches conducted by cops a few days before the protests and purely for intimidation purposes.

If the tactics used by police were excessive, the reporting done by the media was complicit. Before the protest, Miami journalists had stated on television that they were going to embed themselves with the police and cover the story from there. On the night of the demonstration, the media framed the clash as they have many others, claiming that the majority of protesters were peaceful, a minority were violent, and the police used

appropriate force on these latter protesters. Reports cut to clips of police showing journalists a cache of weapons allegedly taken from anarchist protesters: a double-bladed knife, bottles of urine, metal nuts, and slingshots. Other newscasts focused on the injuries a few policemen suffered during the demonstrations, with scenes of a policeman in the hospital, having strained his back while keeping the peace.

Blatantly missing were images of protesters bleeding or being beaten. The only TV report that mentioned police repression was Univision, a Spanish-speaking channel. Few other local newscasts, if any, interviewed people who had been in the conflict — not to mention someone who had gotten shot. For people outside of Florida, the coverage was almost nil. The story was neglected by *The New York Times* and most mainstream TV stations. (For the vast majority of you still in the dark about the FTAA, visit <http://stopftaa.org>.)

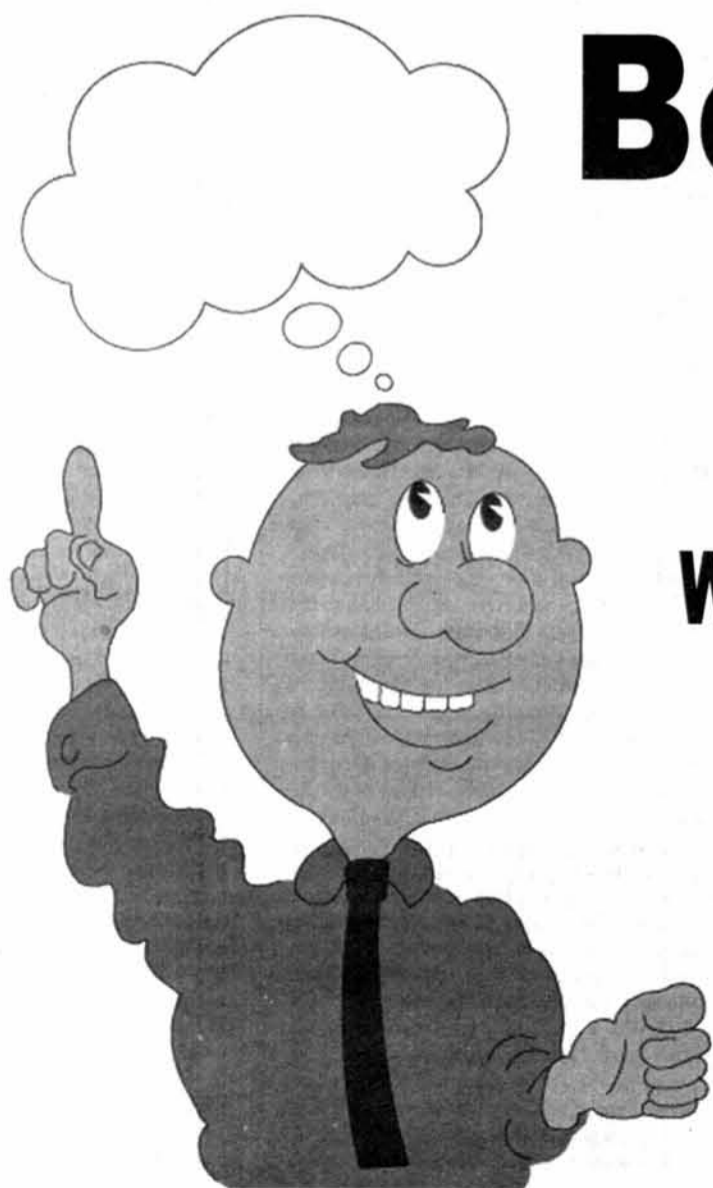
If you're thinking that the FTAA protests in Miami are unrelated to your studies, you're technically right. But the police chief that was contracted out from Philadelphia to Miami to train the 2,500 cops for the demonstrations has been contracted to Boston to train the police here for the Democratic National Convention. I encourage all readers not to miss that one.

Michael Borucke is a member of the class of 2001.

Got an opinion?

Be Loud

Be Proud



Write for The Tech!

letters@the-tech.mit.edu

FEATURES

Sex and the SafeRide The LDR

By Daniel Chai
COLUMNIST

"My boyfriend is 500 miles away and I'm afraid he might cheat on me."

There's no question that a long distance relationship can be rough. I've been through one myself, and it's not exactly a walk in the park. Knowing this, why do people still get themselves into this increasingly common situation?

Well, in college, it's simple. Most of the time you'll try to keep the flame burning as long as possible from a relationship you've carried over from high school. In other cases, you've met someone from out of town who likes you and doesn't realize that you're a total loser, even at MIT.

Also, with the invention of the Internet — and subsequently, Friendster — meeting new people from halfway across the world isn't as hard as boarding the Mayflower and setting off for lands unknown anymore.

Every relationship has its pitfalls; it just so happens that certain types of them have

more, especially the LDR. The LDR has all of the limitations of a regular relationship with fewer of the benefits.

First, there's no actual human interaction. You can't go to the movies together, you can't go to dinner together, and you can't stroll down the Infinite making everyone else jealous together. Also, no actual human interaction means no actual sex.

Let's face it, phone sex just doesn't count. Which brings us to our next point: all the interaction you're going to get is over the phone or AIM. The best you can hope for is phone sex while your roommate has gone for a shower. The worst comes in the form of a long, dragged-out argument that costs you \$250 on your cell phone bill.

And for all you instant messengers out there, I don't care how much you're online, you can't convey how happy, angry, or sad you are in one of those emoticons.

And the last pitfall? You're stuck in the middle of a city densely populated with single college students with whom you can't hook-up because you're taken by someone who lives in Fiji.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying that you shouldn't date someone from Fiji; it's just going to take a lot more work and commitment. If you want to make an LDR work, then you're going to have to follow some of these rules:

1. Trust him or leave him.

If you think he's going to cheat on you, why the hell are you still with him? And besides, there's no guarantee that he'd be faithful even if you were living together. Either stop wasting your time worrying about it, or leave him for someone closer.

2. Resist the urge.

It's not exactly the healthiest thing for a relationship if you go cheating on your significant other. Actually, that's the worst thing you could do.

3. Never let her hang up angry.

If she goes crying to her best guy friend about you and they end up in bed together, well, you're SOL. If she goes crying to her best female friend and they end up in bed together, play your cards right and you could be a very lucky man.

4. Frequent visits are good.

Even though they're good, they're also expensive and time-consuming. Unless your last name can be found on one of the buildings on campus, making frequent trips to another time zone can end up costing a lot more than a UROP can afford.

5. Mutually understand.

You both need to know where you think the relationship is going, what the boundaries are, and what you're trying to get out of it. Ambiguity should be left to those who can at least see each other on a regular basis.

So my advice comes down to this: if you're in an LDR, stick with it as long as it's worth it, and don't sleep with other people. Then again, that's applicable to all relationships.

If you're not in an LDR, you should probably look into dating someone in the same area code. Unless your name is Ludacris.

Daniel Chai is a pseudonymous male undergraduate student at MIT who writes a weekly column about sex and dating in college from a guy's perspective. Questions or comments? You can contact him at danielchai@mit.edu.

Blind Date: At Least There Were Flowers

By Devdoot Majumdar
STAFF WRITER

Everything was in place for Jonathan R. Harris '04 to be off frolicking with a tasty young blonde junior from California last weekend. The only problem was that this tasty blonde found herself a strapping young man in the meanwhile, leaving Jonathan dateless, 5'10", and with nowhere to go.

And that's how Irene S. Sonu '04 got herself involved in Jonathan's love life. Irene was one of my blind date "stringers" for a bit, slipping from almost-date to almost-date, but cancelling on account of sorority loyalties and fears of men with fedoras. So when Jon said he was seeking someone "smart, outgoing, attractive, well-read, active, athletic, and confident," I set him up with Irene, the only 5'1" girl I know who fits the bill.

Jon met Irene in Baker with a dozen pink roses. Indeed, I had made a fuss in the past about guys who come flowerless, but gentlemen, there is a bit of a difference between a single flower and a bouquet, even if it's just from Star Market. Save the bouquets for moments of Dance Troupe mock appreciation.

"She was short, but I didn't make anything of that. It would have been nicer if she was taller, but I'm not as tall as I want to be," said Jon of his first impression of Irene.

Irene was admittedly taken aback by the flowers. But the best she could offer on Jon's choice of attire (business casual meets bomber jacket) was a feeble, "I hear they're [bomber jackets] making a comeback!" The verdict on that one is *no*, do not wear bomber jackets.

Instead, tout your fraternity's jacket (DKE, in Jon's case) like all other frat boys who can't pull off the GQ look.

Jon chartered a taxi for the two of them off to Sonsie, a restaurant on Newbury Street that was to be their evening's sole destination. Oddly enough, Irene was the one who hailed the cab, but we'll come back to that point later. Their conversation boiled down to the same old meaningless chatter that I've come to expect from the dates without much sexual tension.

Their parents both lived in Virginia. They're both one of four children. Blah, blah, blah. "There was so much superficial business to talk about," Irene said later. Jon was fine wading the shallow waters of small talk, commenting that they discussed "nothing too deep, and nothing touchy-feely."

Irene's brilliant idea of the evening was to throw a little alcohol upon the smoldering matchstick that was their date. As they waited for a table at the restaurant, they stopped by the bar.

And here comes one of the more disappointing realizations of the evening. By all accounts, Irene was a tad too dainty and pucky to be the navigator in the relationship. And yet, somehow, Irene admits, "I guess I was the man in this whole situation."

Irene bought Jon the drink. She hailed the taxi. And when he seemed flustered at what type of red wine to order, she just made the big wine decision for him (which was "a nice house wine"). Irene, who instead of wine got a martini, became much more evocative after

the liquor.

(For the record, Dean Trujillo, both blind date participants are over 21 and purchased their own liquor, so take it easy on us, big boy. As far as this column's policy goes, I advocate alcohol use only in cases of extreme social anxiety.)

They both had a fine meal at Sonsie, as they continued their meaningless banter throughout the evening. Irene, considerably more tipsy than before, got giggly. And Jon began to think, "She seemed to like me a lot, but I wasn't sure that it wasn't because of the martini."

With that, their evening ended, they took a cab home, exchanged a hug (the only physical contact of the evening), and Irene continued on to a birthday party. Not as convinced as Jon of their chemistry, Irene reflected, "I didn't see any sparks, but maybe on the second date."

Jon has, in fact, "penciled" Irene in for a date on Dec. 11, if I haven't already killed it by writing this article. So even without some ripe chemistry, they managed to turn out a second shot. Irene, who says she has found far too many men far too inadequate, insists that "there's no reason to be hasty; I'm still free after all."

Sadly, this is the best I can do at MIT so far. Two good natured people give each other a second chance. I think the problem is that my blind date candidates don't like to air their laundry. So, if you're a needy, insecure girl or an arrogant, young prick, send me an e-mail at devdoot@mit.edu, and I'll send you on a fun-filled evening.

Scratch Paper Why MIT Makes Us Fat

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen
COLUMNIST

It's dinner time and you're hungry. The stir fry at Baker Dining is \$6.50, so you look for cheaper options. At Alpine Bagel, you choose

between the \$4.99 juicy burger and fries, or the healthier \$5.49 chicken salad.

Guilty because of your after-Thanksgiving day splurge at the mall, you go for the greasy burger.

If large caesar salads cost \$1.00, you surely would have chosen the greens. Nobody at MIT would be gaining their holiday 15 if MIT subsidized healthy foods.

These days it seems you need to be upper-class to afford to be healthy. Studies have shown that America's poorest are often America's most obese, stemming primarily from the fact that the value meal at McDonald's is cheaper than going to Star Market and buying the ingredients for a low-fat salad.

In countries like Japan, packaged and processed foods are expensive while the noodles, fish, and rice remain affordable. Perhaps that is why Japan set the record for the world's oldest person, Mitoyo Kawate, who lived until 114 and passed away a month ago.

Welcome to America. This is the land where McDonald's is in Wal-Marts, Starbucks are at every T-stop, and the distribution system for Cokes and Doritos is more efficient and maintained than that of pasta, salads, and real food.

Notice how it is the wealthy like Sarah Jessica Parker who can afford a personal trainer and is paid for 1.5 hours of exercise a day. Filthy rich socialites such as Paris Hilton have white-jacket chefs to whip up their fat-free angel food cakes when a craving arises.

Sure, most of us are from families that can afford four years of an expensive private school. Yet, we students are still on a budget! MIT needs to recognize that three dollars for a fruit cup or a yogurt parfait is absurd! It's no wonder that we're all coughing and wheezing

this week — we can't afford the food that contains the vitamins to cure us!

While the Coffeehouse remains unfilled because we are still searching for a vendor that does not threaten other food monopolies on campus, vending machines have been set up in prime places like the fifth floor of the Student Center. At midnight, a candy bar with 50% of the recommended daily allowance of saturated fat becomes our only option.

In their "delicious revolution," the Yale University Sustainable Food Project had the university devote an acre of land to growing organic produce that ended up in their food and hire celebrity chef Alice Waters (chef of Chez Panisse) to create dishes from antibiotic-free meats for college students. Students raved about improved taste, quality, and freshness of the new menu!

It is time for MIT to change what is on our plates. If we had better food, we would actually stay awake in class instead of falling into food comas. Now that's food for thought.

Thanks to you, all sorts of everyday products are being made from the paper, plastic, metal and glass that you've been recycling. But to keep recycling working to help protect the environment, you need to buy those products.

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So look for products made from recycled materials, and buy them. It would mean the world to all of us.

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SEPA

Ask Nutty B

By Nutty B
COLUMNIST

Nutty B is currently a graduate student at MIT. Please e-mail him with whatever question you would like someone to listen to, and help him have an excuse to procrastinate at 3 a.m. Please send all questions to askNuttyB@yahoo.com

Column

Dear Nutty B,

I am a new reader of your column. You seem like someone that knows what he is talking about, so I am going to give this a shot. There is this girl in one of my classes that I really like, and I think she likes me, too.

The problem is that I am shy, and she is shy, too. So far the only conversations we have had are "Hi, how are you?" and "What's up?" I am frustrated that every time I go to class, I can do nothing but look at her. What do I do?

—Teddy Bear

Dear Teddy Bear,

Me? Someone who knows what he is talking about? Are you sure you didn't mean to send your question to Dear Abby? This is probably the nicest and most unrealistic compliment I have received, but thank you just the same! By the way, welcome to the Nutty B fan club.

"What's up?" Nothing but the sky is up! Is that the best pickup line you can come up with? I am sure most ladies, at least those who work for Pimp Master Nutty B, are sophisticated enough to detest this kind of lame pickup line. If you know you like her, and you know she likes you (although I am not sure how your previous dialogues can discern this), why don't you go up to her and start some REAL conversations?

Ask her how she likes the class, the homework, the weather, the cat... whatever.

Anything is better than "What's up?" How about asking her if she would like to study together or work on the class project?

Start with a simple and casual conversation and be genuine. I am sure everything will go smoothly. Good luck!

Dear friend,

My name is Mrs. Johnnhenitti and I am the wife of my late husband Mr. Johnnhenitti, the exiled king of Zimbaya. Zimbaya is country on the east of Africa. I am writing you with the utmost sincerity for a potential business partnership. My late husband, before he passed away, managed to transfer \$50 billion dollars out of the country and now the whole sum is at my and my only daughter's disposal.

Because of the political circumstance, I would like to use your bank account to deposit the money and then later to go back and hopefully rebuild my lost country when the political climate is stable. In order to thank you, I will let you keep \$2 billion dollars.

Please consider this proposal and I look forward to your reply. Yours truly,

—Mrs. Jognnhenitti, the formal queen of Zimbaya

Dear Mrs. Jognnhenitti,

I am truly flattered that despite my yahoo e-mail spam guard, you can still manage to send junk e-mail to my inbox. Were you also the one who was so kind as to subscribe me to the daily porn newsletter?

Thank you for your thorough introduction, but here in North America, we generally know you are the wife, when you address someone as your husband.

I will be more than willing to help you. However, I have a solution that's even better than yours. How about if you just give me all the money and let me marry your daughter? You see, I am the Prince of Canada, and by our marriage, we will be able to secure the quality of the royal lineage.

Also, when I become a member of your

family, you won't have to worry about giving some outsider \$2 billion dollars because I, as your son-in-law, can help you manage all the money. I will send you my Swiss Bank account number in private.

By the way, just a few days I ago, I got an e-mail apparently from your relative Mr. Jones, another exiled King in Africa who wanted to give me \$100 billion dollars. Your offer of \$2 billion is rather paltry in comparison. I not only agreed to help, but also signed him up for my daily porn newsletter so that he will be able to have some entertainment during his exile. Would you like me to subscribe you, too?

Dear Nutty B,

After reading your response of 11/21 to Depressed at MIT, we felt that we would respond to his/her question differently:

Dear Depressed at MIT,

Seeking outside help in this situation is an option that's worth thinking about seriously. Depression can be debilitating, and may not go away by itself no matter how hard you fight it. Talking to friends may help, but if they try to cheer you up too fast, it can also be very frustrating. Everyone deals with depression at their own pace; it can be good to talk to someone who understands this.

Deciding to get help can be the hardest thing — it's good that you wrote about what's happening. It can feel like the depression isn't related to anything in particular, but talking to someone who understands depression might help bring out specific causes.

Once you have a better idea of the causes and of your options, you can decide what you want to do.

Short-term and seasonal depressions are real, and talking to a therapist or counselor soon may be helpful in either case. It can help you understand and deal with your feelings of depression, and opens a door, which could be useful if these feelings, last or recur.

In short — depression can be hard, but there's help around. The two main sources of help are Mental Health (253-2916, 24-hour line, walk-in hours M-F 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.) and Counseling and Support Services (253-4861).

You can also call us (253-8800) from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night — we're not professionals, but we are caring student listeners who keep all conversations in the strictest confidence.

Thanks for writing.

—Nightline Staffers

Dear Nightline Staffers,

Thank you very much for the input. Your e-mail came into my inbox five seconds before I was about to submit my column. I am glad that my column has caught campus-wide attention!

To all readers: Depression can be annoying and frustrating, but it's not something you should be ashamed of. There are many different people willing to help and listen to you, and you are entitled to take advantage of all these services around you. As a matter of fact, I am thinking about talking to someone about my nuttiness, too!

Always try to keep a positive attitude and use the resources around you to make your life as enjoyable as you can. You are the owner of your life and you should enjoy it! It's just up to you to make that happen!

Nutty B would like to thank all of you wonderful readers for your support and letters in the past few months. This will be last column of the season until IAP, but during the holidays, if you ever feel the need to talk to someone (i.e., indigestion from large Christmas dinner, ideas to get rid of your bad Christmas presents, proper way for counting down on New Year's Eve, or simply why Canadians are just better) please feel free to send him an e-mail and keep Nutty B busy. Finally, have a jolly and nutty Christmas. HoHoHo.



"You can prevent colon cancer, even beat it."

• HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON •

MAKE THE TIME TO GET A TEST THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

Colon cancer is the second leading cancer killer and everyone aged 50 and older is at risk. More than 50,000 Americans will die from colon cancer and 131,600 new cases will be diagnosed this year.

Colon cancer is an equal opportunity disease that affects both women and men. This silent killer frequently begins without symptoms and those with a family history are at even greater risk.

Colon cancer is preventable—even curable when detected early. In fact, if cancer is found early enough, the patient has more than a 90 percent chance of survival.

Colon cancer screenings are safe and effective and are now covered by Medicare and an increasing number of other health providers. There's even a test that can be used in the privacy of your own home.

Talk to your doctor about getting tested.



SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER ROUNDTABLE FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AT 1-800-ACS-2345

Positive Sinking Bigger, Better, Fewer Calories

By Akshay Patil
COLUMNIST

Well readers, let me commend you on the cornucopia of e-mails you have sent since I started whining about lack of love. As the end of the term draws near, I feel obliged to use as many of these e-mails as possible with hopes that y'all will send many more during the holiday break and IAP.

Column

Hey Akshay!

How you doing? I was surfing around and read one of your columns ["Chew on This," Sept. 26]. I could not hold my tongue after reading, "That's why all of us should learn to speak with a Canadian accent... just do it, eh?" Cuz there ain't no Canadian accent !!!!

—Michelle

Yes there is. You know, I know it, the American people know it. Stop denying it, you hoser, and just accept it, eh? That's what it's all about.

On a more serious note, anyone who has engaged me in conversation when I'm in a quirky mood will attest that I, myself, say "eh" regularly.

It's a wonderful... sound? And I'm not even from Canada! Though I have been there... is it infectious? Trust them wily Canadians to come up with a virulent language. Remember kids, always wash your hands after handling Canadians — don't argue with me, it's for your own safety.

hello mr sin king,

I have decided that your e-mail food palate will benefit from e-mail cake.

so here you are. [CAKE]

since rambling seems to be the newest sport you ought to start training for the olympics.

personally i see it as more of an art form, so congratulations on the most creative and funny series of ramblings or column I have ever read.

i suggest a black tea with your e-mail cake. oh, and you ought to wipe the icing off your face.

—from lady

You've been reading other columns? But I thought I was the only one! How COULD you!? And all this time I thought you were

loyal, giving, understanding, considerate, tangible, and sitting.

As for Olympic sport — this weekly training business has been great. My fingers have never been in better shape. And since I don't get paid, I'm still an amateur. Not much of a spectator sport, though.

I'm going to have to pass on the black tea... I'm not much of a tea drinker really. Blame my genes, the taste, or the drugs, but I've never really been a sipper of coffee or tea. The only tea-like substance I enjoy drinking is chai, and Indian chai at that. Did you know that chai is not in my word processor's dictionary? I know that because the damn thing keeps adding a little squiggly thing under the word and I'm too lazy to reach over to the mouse to right click and tell it to add the word to "standard.dic."

Ah crap, now it's underlining "standard.dic." I can't win, I just can't win.

Anyways, as I was saying about chai with little squiggles, it seems strange that my genes should decide to assert beverage favoritism as opposed to all sorts of Indian traits I could have. For example: I am not hairy. This may shock you, but I'm not. So many of my Indian friends grow full-length beards over the course of an hour, but it takes me a week of non-shaving to get people commenting, "Hey, you're looking kind of scruffy there."

I don't know if this is a blessing or a curse. On one hand, I can get away with looking clean-shaven for up to three days without any effort on my part. On the other, I just can't grow anything. It would take me close to a year to grow a goatee; two years for a beard. I think that's tragic.

Well, as opposed to launching on a long diatribe about facial hair, let's pick the e-mail behind door three.

"A simple pole in a complex plane?" It's nice to know that my countless hours of writing tutorial notes is being used as an attempt at humor (not a particularly wonderful attempt, but your heart's in it, and I suppose that's what counts).

And now for something completely different: what are your thoughts on the holiday season; do they fall on the "positive" or the "sinking" side of the column? Have any amusing stories you can share?

For instance, was your mother ever so busy on Thanksgiving that she confused you

with the turkey and tried to stick you in the oven? Don't laugh, it can happen.

Sign me as...

—Traumatized for life

Hey man, I was watching "Ruddigore" the day after, and I heard some guy tell the joke to his friends behind me. "Don't blame me, I read it in *The Tech*." Yeah, like that's an excuse. That's like quoting something from the Classifieds and then excusing yourself with "But it was in the *New York Times*."

And if you thought the pole joke was bad, take refuge in the fact that the title to that column ("A Bit Off") is part of the punchline for another geeky joke that I spared you, the reader.

I have to say the holiday season falls primarily into the "positive" side of the column. It gives me an excuse to not worry about work or the future, enjoy the fam, and get amazing deals on electronics at Fry's. You know what I'm talking about: hard drives at CRAZY low prices.

Oh my, something that good just HAS to be fattening. The standing in line part sucks though. It's like Disneyland/world but in an electronics store. Maybe they should add people wandering around dressed up like cartoon characters — yeah, that'd probably take our minds off of how much time we spend in line to just to have sixty seconds of exhilarating cashier fun.

It has come to my attention that quite a few of your published e-mail queries seem to be written by people who live on your floor. How do you respond to this?

—The guy next door

At least I can pronounce "California."

Do you miss those days when people really meant it when they said, "I need someone who is able to take care of these funds in a secure private account?" I know I do. That's why I'm urging you, the e-mail sending citizens of this great nation, to send e-mail to sinking@mit.edu about absolutely anything mildly amusing. If I had come up with an alternative to "mildly" that began with the letter "a," I could have turned that final clause into some killer alliteration. But I didn't, because the matter before us is a serious one that warrants the fullest attention and utmost resolve. So please, for your children's children's children.

Hay Fever

by Qian Wang + Jennifer Peng

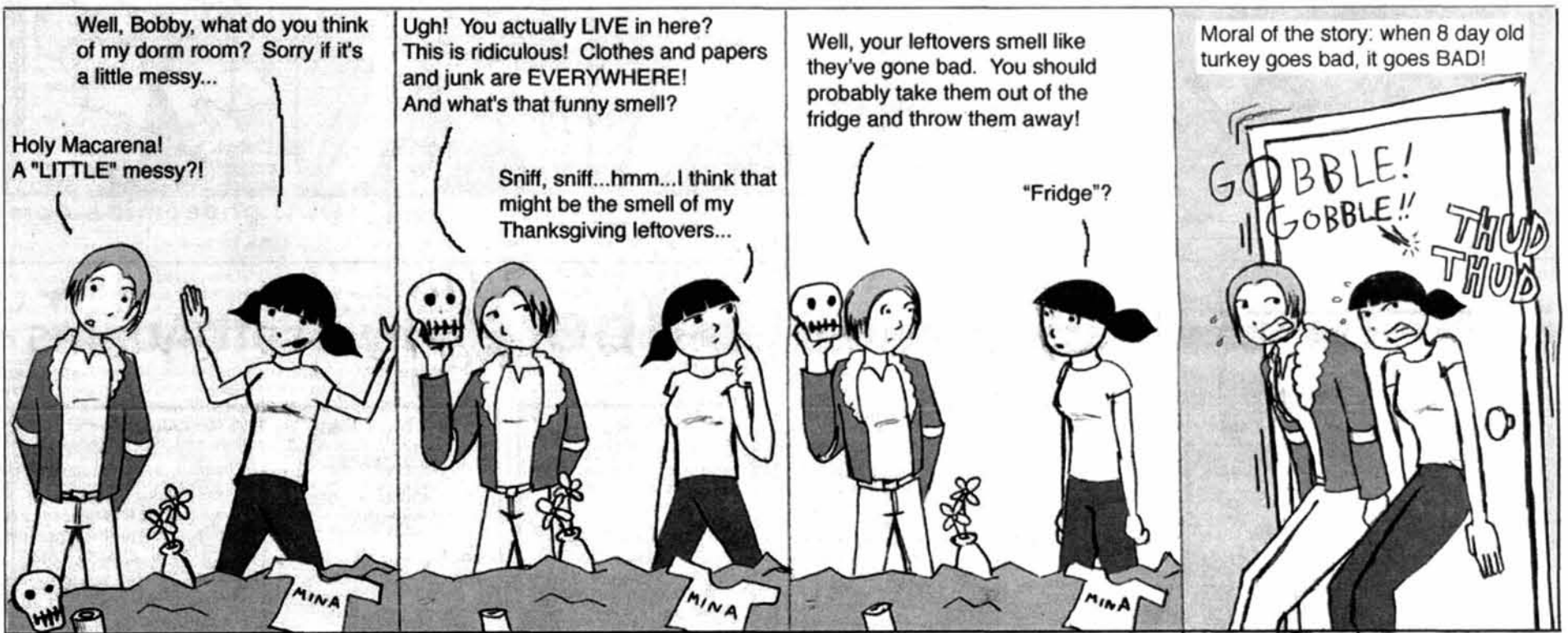


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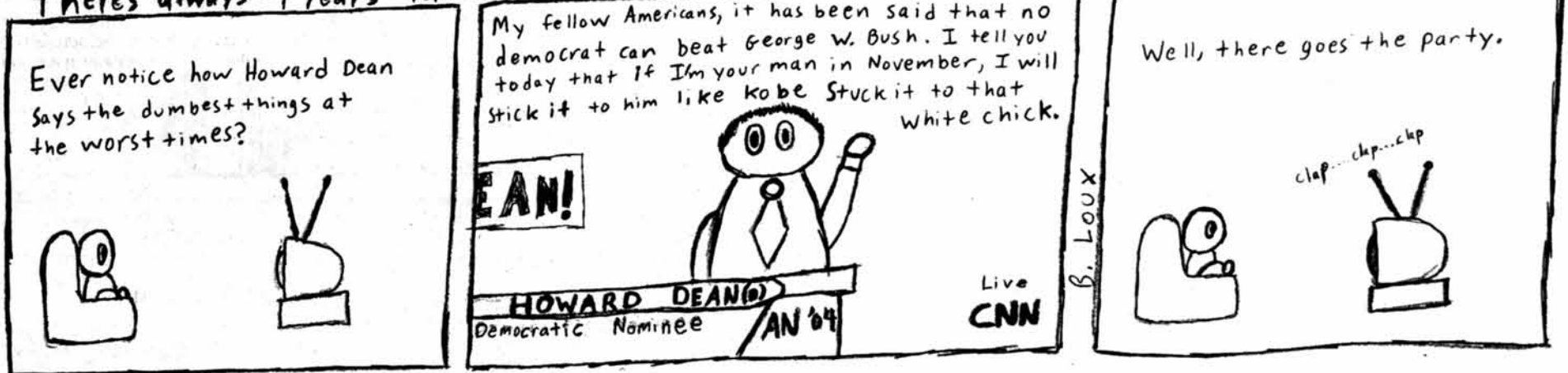
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TRIO

members.aol.com/rickxykes/welcome

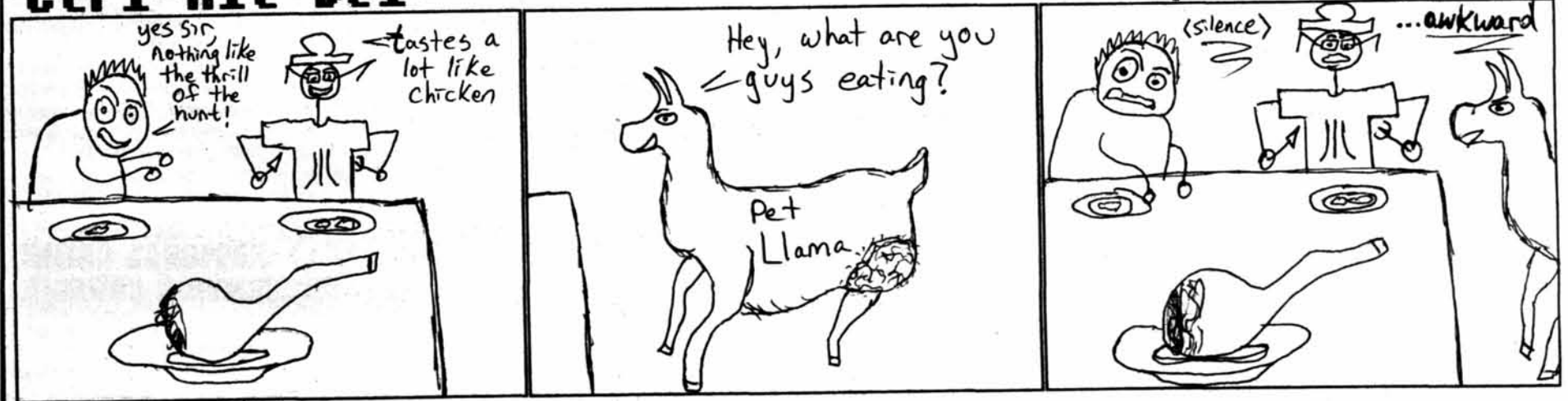


There's always 4 years later



Ctrl-Alt-Del

by Ali Ghajarnia



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, December 5

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Holiday Craft Fair. Tech Community Crafters' sale. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: MIT Women's League.

10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Christmas Card Making. Make a card for a friend, and one for charity! It's on us! Free. Room: Student Center (W20) Lobby. Sponsor: MIT Public Service Center, National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - MIT/CRE Career Services Presentation - Toll Brothers. Free. Room: W31-301. Sponsor: Center for Real Estate.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Writers Group. New writers are invited to join our weekly Writers Group. Share a piece of your writing with other interested and supportive writers. Open to all MIT students, staff, faculty, and spouses. Free. Room: 14N-417. Sponsor: Writing and Communication Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Iraq: What Now? A CIS Starr Forum discussion of U.S. policy options in Iraq. Moderated by MIT Political Science Professor Stephen Van Evera, Associate Director of the MIT Center for International Studies, and co-sponsored by the Boston Review. Speakers: Daniel Benjamin, Center for International and Strategic Studies and co-author, "Age of Sacred Terror"; Ivo Daalder, Brookings Institution and co-author, "America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy"; and Juan Cole, Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, University of Michigan, an expert on Iraq's Shi'ites. Free. Room: Wong Auditorium (E51). Sponsor: Center for International Studies. Boston Review.

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, and questioning members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. Free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbg@mit.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - ACDL Seminar. P-multigrid for the solution of continuous and discontinuous hp-finite element discretizations. Free. Room: 33-206. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - FileMaker User Group. Meeting of the MIT FileMaker User Group. Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems, MIT User Groups.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Biological Frontiers Seminar Series. New Tools for Chemical Biology by Dr. Barbara Imperiali. Refreshments will be served. Free. Room: Whitehead Institute McGovern Auditorium, 9 Cambridge Center. Sponsor: Whitehead Institute.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - EPTF Meeting. Environmental Programs Task Force or EPTF meets every month to discuss current and plan future environmental initiatives on campus. Topics of discussion range from recycling, organizing events, raising environmental awareness and others. Please attend and bring your ideas! Free. Room: Either 12-196 or 12-090, sign posted on day of meeting. Sponsor: Environmental Programs Task Force, The Environment at MIT Web site.

1:10 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. - Muslim Friday Prayer. Weekly congregational prayer for Muslims. People of other faiths welcome to attend. E-mail msa-ec@mit.edu for more information. Free. Room: W11-110. Sponsor: Muslim students' Association.

2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - SSL Seminar (Dan Kwon). EMFF Subsystem Designs. Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Gardner Lecture: The Wright Brothers. First Aeronautical Engineers and Test Pilots. Free. Room: Bartos Theatre, E15. Sponsor: AeroAstro, New England Section of the AIAA.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Eid Dinner. Eid Dinner in authentic Bangladeshi style. Free. Room: McCormick Brown Living Room. Sponsor: MIT Bangladeshi Students' Association, GSC Funding Board.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - GCF Large Group Fellowship Meeting. "Lord of the Rings" - Come for worship, a stimulating talk, fellowship and snacks. Free. Room: W20-306. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Hari Raya Celebration. Hari Raya is one of the most celebrated, colorful and "happening" event in Malaysia. Do come and join us for this joyous celebration and to find out what Hari Raya is all about! Free. Room: Private Dining Room 1, Student Center. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board, Malaysian Student Association.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Visiting Scholar's Friday Event: Mozart's Lost Opera: The Philosopher's Stone. Talk by Martin Pearlman, founder, music director, Boston Baroque. Hosted and moderated by Shirley Geok-lin Lim, MIT visiting scholar. Refreshments (curry chicken, juices) to follow. Free. Room: Simmons Hall Multiple Purpose Room. Sponsor: Visiting Scholars.

6:00 p.m. - Shabbat Services & Dinner. Celebrate Shabbat. MIT Hillel's three religious communities hold Shabbat services at 6 p.m. (Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform) A community Shabbat dinner follows at 7 p.m. Cost for dinner only. Room: Religious Activities Center, W11. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - Sisters' Eid Party. A women-only party in celebration of Eid. Free. Room: The Alley, Boston University. Sponsor: Muslim students' Association, GSC Funding Board.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Matchstick Men. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Alpha Phi's Annual Holiday Mixer. The sisters of Alpha Phi invite you to our campus-wide Holiday Mixer. Please join us on Friday, December 5th for food, fun, live music and holiday cheer! Music at 9 p.m. Logs at 10 p.m. Decorating gingerbread cookies. Raffle drawing for cool prizes! All raffle proceeds will benefit Women's Lunch Place. Free. Room: 479 Commonwealth Ave. Sponsor: Alpha Phi Sorority.

7:00 p.m. - Faculty-Student Shabbat Dinner. MIT faculty and students are invited to celebrate the Jewish Shabbat with a traditional dinner. Free with reservation by 12/3. Room: W11, Main Dining Room. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. - MIT Anime Club Showing: reincarnated warlords, a subway to another world, and the cataclysmic conclusion of "Last Exile." Tonight we will show three episodes of "Mirage of Blaze" a story in which the souls of warlords from Japan's civil war are reincarnated in modern times to fight the war anew; we'll follow this with the world-shattering conclusion of "Last Exile," the aerial steam-punk hit that has been a highlight of our semester; and we'll conclude the evening with "Final Fantasy: Unlimited," in which two people take an abandoned subway to another world, in search of their vanished parents. The MIT Anime Club shows the best of both recent and classic Japanese animation. Showings are open to the public. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT, UA Finance Board.

7:00 p.m. - Varsity Women's Ice Hockey vs. Babson College Club Team. Free. Room: Johnson Athletic Center.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Carrom Tournament. Carrom is a game for 2-4 players, played on a large wooden board. Carrom is played all over the world from the UK to Australia,

It is particularly popular in Asia, Africa and the middle east. Prizes: Pride, Honor and maybe some chocolate bars. Free. Room: Sidney and Pacific Games Room. Sponsor: Singapore Students Society, MITSSS, GSC Funding Board.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Bible Study. Is there more to life than grad school? We believe the answer is "YES!" Come study the word of God with us. There will be dinner provided and games afterward. Free. Room: 4-149. Sponsor: Asian Baptist Student Koinonia Graduate Division, GSC Funding Board.

8:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. - Sangam Movies. Screening of popular movies. Please subscribe to sangam-request@mit.edu. Free. Sponsor: Sangam, GSC Funding Board.

8:00 p.m. - Resonance Fall 2003 Concert. A fall concert brought to you by MIT's freshest a cappella group. Resonance promises good music, boys in the girls' room, and Jean-Luc Picard. Free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: Resonance of MIT A Capella Group.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble. The SHARQ Arabic Music Ensemble is composed of distinguished Arab-American professional musicians. The ensemble is a traditional Arabic Tarab group performing on classical Arabic instruments with vocals and chorus. Their musical repertoire consists of suites and songs from the Andalusian period up until modern Egyptian classical music of the mid-1900s. Although it is classical music, the energy level is high due to aggressive percussion and imaginative instrumental improvisation. Advance tickets \$5 students, \$8 non-students; door tickets \$8 students, \$12 non-students. Room: Lobdell, MIT Student Center. Sponsor: Arab Student Organization, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Green Hall, MIT Council for the Arts, MIT Club of Saudi Arabia, Office of the Dean for Student Life/Dean for Undergraduate Education.

8:00 p.m. - MIT Symphony Orchestra. Dante Anzolini, music director. World premiere of Giovanni D'Aquila's "Through the Mines of Moria," commissioned by the MIT Symphony Orchestra; Glazunov's Violin Concerto in A minor (soloist Insoo Kim, junior in management); Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11. \$5 at the door. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: MIT Symphony Orchestra (MITSO).

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Social Justice Cooperative Friday Movie. Documentaries and historic films on topics of domestic and foreign politics. Free. Room: 1-190. Sponsor: MIT Social Justice Cooperative.

8:00 p.m. - Dance Theater Ensemble Winter Concert. Featuring "Bathroom Sweet," "The Hours," and "Cliche Soup." \$6, \$4 students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dance Theater Ensemble.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - Matchstick Men. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday, December 6

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - 6th Annual MIT Venture Capital Conference. Leading venture capitalists and experts from across the nation will meet on Dec. 6 at MIT to discuss challenges facing the increasingly competitive venture industry. The conference, organized by students from MIT's Sloan School of Management and School of Engineering, includes keynote talks by DR. Philip Sharp, a Nobel laureate in medicine who now directs the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, and Forrester Research founder and CEO George Colony. The expected 400 attendees and 50 panelists include representatives from Atlas Venture, Battery Ventures, Flagship Ventures, Highland Capital Partners, Matrix Partners and other top VC firms. Room: E51 - Tang Center. Sponsor: Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation, MIT Venture Capital and Private Equity Club.

9:00 a.m. - Varsity Pistol JORC. Free. Room: MIT Pistol and Rifle Range in DuPont Athletic Center.

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Festival of Flight. In conjunction with the exhibition, Hub of the Air Universe: A Century of Flight in Massachusetts, a daylong array of speakers, hands-on activities, and presentations gives visitors the chance to learn about local flight-related organizations, including the Massachusetts Aviation Historical Society, NE Aerobatic Club, and Women in Aviation. Free with MIT Museum admission. Room: MIT Museum. Sponsor: MIT Museum.

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Currently studying the gospel of Luke. Free. Room: Edgerton Apt. 221. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Family Holography Studio. Families explore the fascinating world of holography and its connection to art, science, and technology. Learn more about holograms in the Museum's collection and make your own three dimensional image in the Museum's state-of-the-art holography laboratory. \$40 per 2-person team (includes Museum admission). Pre-registration required. \$40 per 2-person team (Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult). Room: MIT Museum. Sponsor: MIT Museum.

2:00 p.m. - Varsity Men's Basketball vs. NY Polytechnic. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage.

3:00 p.m. - Varsity Women's Ice Hockey vs. Manhattanville College. Free. Room: Johnson Athletic Center.

4:00 p.m. - Varsity Women's Basketball vs. Tufts University. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Cross Products Fall Concert. MIT's Christian a cappella. Free. Room: Rm 34-101. Sponsor: Cross Products.

5:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Tech Model Railroad Club Meeting. An informal meeting where we design and build the layout and run trains. Visitors welcome. Students welcome to join the club. Free. Room: N52-118. Sponsor: Tech Model Railroad Club.

6:00 p.m. - Chamber Music Society Concert. Brahms' Piano Quartet in G minor, Op. 25. The Chamber Music Society, coordinated by Professor Marcus Thompson, is comprised of students selected by audition to study and perform chamber music literature. Free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Winged Migration. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - CSSA Movie Night. Two free Chinese movies. Free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: Chinese Student and Scholar Association, Graduate Student Council. Cybercalling.com.

8:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. - Sangam Movie Special. Free. Room: 2-105. Sponsor: Sangam, GSC Funding Board.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Patrol. Travel to strange new classrooms. Meet interesting, unusual people, and kill them! Patrol is a high-action game of live combat with rubber-dart guns. Shoot your friends, then watch out as they try to take their revenge. Free. Room: 36-115. Sponsor: Assassins' Guild, MIT.

8:00 p.m. - Dance Theater Ensemble Winter Concert. \$6, \$4 students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dance Theater Ensemble.

8:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. - Ballroom Holiday Dance - Winter Party. No partner necessary. Semiformal dress. \$6-\$10. Room: La Sala. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Club.

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - aMUSEd - Muses Fall Concert. Don't miss the classy ladies in black in an aMUSEing spectacle. It's a cappella Muses style! Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Muses, The MIT.

8:00 p.m. - Techiya's Fall Invitational Concert. Jewish a cappella, laughs, and

snacks. Free. Room: Rm 1-190. Sponsor: Techiya.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Lord of the Dreidels: Techiya's Winter Invitational Concert. Join Techiya, MIT's Jewish/Hebrew/Israeli a cappella group, in our annual winter invitational concert. Featuring Tufts' "Shir Appeal", Harvard's "Mizmor Shir", and BU's "Kol Echad", Lord of the Dreidels, will be fun for anyone who loves Jewish music. The concert and refreshments afterwards are free. Room: 1-190. Sponsor: Techiya.

8:00 p.m. - MIT Wind Ensemble. Frederick Harris, music director. Bach's "The Art of the Fugue," Shostakovich's "Festive Overture," Wagner's "Trauersinfonie" and music for saxophone and percussion ensembles. \$5 at the door. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - Winged Migration. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Sunday, December 7

9:00 a.m. - Varsity Pistol JORC. Free. Room: MIT Pistol and Rifle Range in DuPont Athletic Center.

9:00 a.m. - Varsity Rifle JOSC. Free. Room: MIT Pistol and Rifle Range in DuPont Athletic Center.

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Tang Hall Brunch. Free. Sponsor: Tang Hall Residents Association, GSC Funding Board.

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Ashdown Sunday Brunch. Free. Room: Ashdown. Sponsor: Ashdown House, GSC Funding Board.

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lessons. No partner required. Social focus rather than competitive. \$1-\$5 depending on level. Room: La Sala. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Club.

3:30 p.m. - 2-Piano Chamber Music Society Concert. Free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Kinaesthetics Lab Contact Improv Workshop. Contact improvisation teaches you to improvise with others, share weight, and lift each other, moving in ways you wouldn't be able to move by yourself. Free. Room: T-Club Lounge. Sponsor: Kinaesthetics Lab.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Matchstick Men. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - MIT Gospel Choir Concert. Guest group: Brookline Community Choir. Also featuring singers from Crazy Praise. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Gospel Choir, MIT.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - International Folk Dancing (participatory). Our repertoire includes dances from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, and others) as well as other parts of Europe and the rest of the world (Israel, France, Russia, even England and the US). MIT/Wellesley students free; \$1 donation (or more) requested from others. Room: Student Center room 491. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

8:00 p.m. - MIT Concert Band Concert. The MIT Concert Band consists of students, alumni, and members of the MIT community. It is directed by Thomas E. Reynolds and Robert Rucinski '99. Reception follows. Free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Concert Band.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - Winged Migration. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday, December 8

10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Chanukah Sale. Chanukah begins on December 19. Sale will feature menorahs, candles, dreidels, and other holiday items. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - FileMaker Pro Quick Start. This class introduces users to the FileMaker environment and its functions using an existing database as a model. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Implications for the Design Professions. This is the last of seven public sessions on "Design at the Frontier of Engineering and Architecture." Andrew Scott and Frank Duffy will be leading a discussion on the issues raised during the previous six sessions and their importance for architectural and engineering designers today. Free. Room: Room 7-431 (AVT). Sponsor: Department of Architecture, Building Technology Program.

2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Monday Research Seminar. Free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Environmental Fluid Mechanics Seminar: Surf zone hydrodynamics. Surf zone hydrodynamics. Free. Room: 1-350. Sponsor: Civil and Environmental Engineering.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Code-switching, Progress, and the Identity Politics of Engineers. STS Colloquium. Free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: STS.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Mechanics Seminar: Focusing in the Crumpling Process: Conical Singularities, an Experimental Study. When a piece of an elastic sheet is crumpled (before we throw a used and useless paper in the waste basket we crumple it into a ball), a network of sharp points connected by ridges can be seen, as if all the force of crumpling was focused in these singular points. In this talk I will show the structure and the geometry (size) of one singular point called developable cone that we generate experimentally in the laboratory. This artificial singularity can be seen as the hydrogen atom of crumpling. Please contact Professor Simona Socrate for additional information (Room 3-334, 452-2689). Refreshments will be served at 3:50 p.m. outside Room 3-370. Free. Room: 3-370. Sponsor: Mechanical Engineering Dept.

5:00 p.m. - MIT Chamber Music Society Concerts. The Chamber Music Society, coordinated by Prof Marcus Thompson, is comprised of students selected by audition to study & perform chamber music literature. Free. Room: Killian hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts section.

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Interpreting the Record of Climate Change. Some of the most important insights into climate change have come in the last 25 years from the study of cores drilled into the seafloor and into the Greenland and Antarctic ice caps. These show that in the past, climate has been radically different from today, and understanding what the records mean is essential for predicting what human disturbances mean for the future. Some of the interpretations are extremely interesting, including the conclusion that much of climate change is controlled by small perturbations in the earth's orbit about the sun, and that sometimes the circulation of the North Atlantic ocean has essentially shut down—over time intervals as short as 10 years. Physical oceanographer Carl Wunsch will describe the problem of interpreting the climate record from the point of view of understanding of the modern ocean. Carl Wunsch is Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physical Oceanography, and Director of the Program in Atmospheres, Oceans, and Climate at MIT. See web page, dinner included. Room: Faculty club E51. Sponsor: MIT Club of Boston.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 42 Heroic saga | 2 "The ___ Mutiny" | 34 Sheltered bay |
| 1 Flesh mark | 43 Declare frankly | 3 Viewpoint | 35 Shaving-cream ingredient |
| 5 Alum | 44 LummoX | 4 Shorten a plank | 36 Not a parvenu? |
| 9 Son of Venus | 45 Beginning | 5 Evaluator | 38 Smidgen |
| 14 Sugar source | 46 Handled | 6 Sitarist Shankar | 41 Blackthorn |
| 15 ___ avis | 48 Den | 7 God of war | 45 Popular cookie |
| 16 With dispatch | 50 Leak slowly | 8 Russian villa | 47 Makes fun of |
| 17 Sets up | 52 Ebb | 9 Elsinore or Balmoral | 49 John or Washington |
| 18 With in Arles | 57 Type of ray | 10 Not oppressed? | 51 Keats or Yeats offerings |
| 19 Spread here and there | 60 Not embroidered? | 11 Whittle | 53 Butt heads |
| 20 Not bizarre? | 63 Zones | 12 Tops the cupcakes | 54 Bring forth |
| 22 Shock or lock | 64 Needle case | 13 Moisture of mornings | 55 Jeans fabric |
| 23 Runt | 65 Top-notch | 21 Beatty and Kelly | 56 Utopias |
| 24 "Alice's Restaurant" singer Guthrie | 66 Trapper's device | 25 Letters on invitations | 57 Clump |
| 26 Retarding force | 67 Horace or Thomas | 27 Concerning | 58 River of Florence |
| 29 Marsh plants | 68 Thin coating | 28 Grave robber | 59 Just around the corner |
| 33 Lots and lots | 69 Arranges by category | 30 Interruptions of continuity | 61 Location of Zion National Park |
| 37 Con's knife | 70 Uneven hairstyle | 31 Cleveland's lake | 62 Fish for a casserole |
| 39 Be gutsy | 71 Skirt edges | 32 Faction | |
| 40 Marco ___ | | 33 Spring resorts | |
| 41 Brownstone entrance | DOWN | | |
| | 1 Temporary money | | |

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				50			51		52		53	54	55	56
57	58	59				60	61	62						
63						64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

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Solution to Crossword

from page 11

S	C	A	R	G	R	A	D	C	U	P	I	D
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S	O	R	T	S	S	H	A	G	H	E	M	S

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New Map Slated For Lobby 7

Projectors, from Page 1

More information is available at http://web.mit.edu/av/www/MoreHtml/Corridor_3.htm.

Interactive map to come to Lobby 7

The north wall of Lobby 7 will undergo renovations this February, if the Interactive Campus Map project goes according to schedule.

A 52-inch plasma screen will display a rolling calendar of events, and a kiosk will contain an interactive map of the Institute. The MIT Design and Construction Group is working on modifying the design of the map.

"The map could serve as a prototype for something in the future where someone could type in the location and print out exact directions to where they are going," said Ronald J. Catella, a senior project manager.

CAPE WIND FORUM

Monday, Dec. 8, 2003
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
MIT Room 4-163

Safe, clean energy?
Loss of natural habitat?

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Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

Jim Gordon
Cape Wind Project

Ernie Corrigan
Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound

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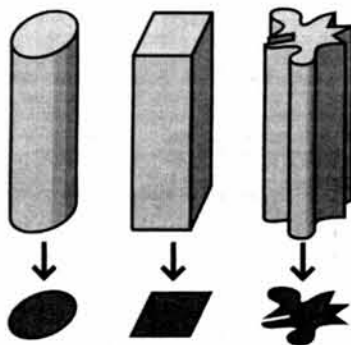
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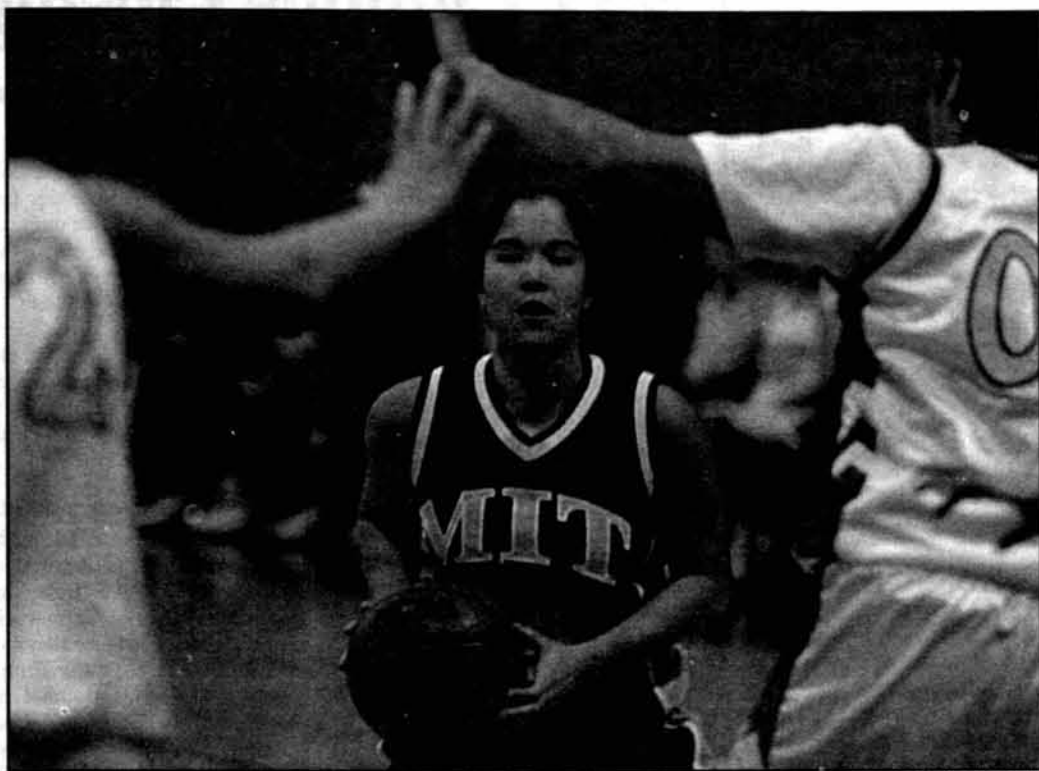
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The D. E. Shaw group will conduct on-campus interviews on Thursday, February 12. To apply, log on to <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/monreg.html>. If this isn't possible, please send a resume and cover letter stating your GPA and standardized test scores, broken down by section where applicable, to oncampus@deshaw.com. All applications must be received by January 29.

Members of the D. E. Shaw group do not discriminate in employment matters on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, military service eligibility, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or any other protected class.

oncampus@deshaw.com

DE Shaw & Co



Lauren E. Tsai '04 looks for an open teammate while surrounded by Emmanuel College defenders last Tuesday. The Engineers lost the game 57-34, dropping their season record to 1-3.

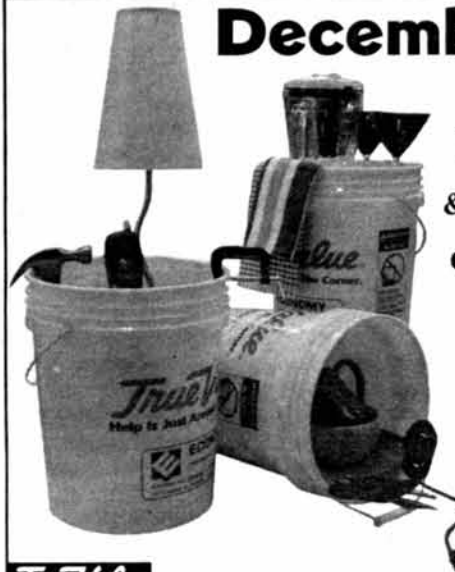
PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

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We're looking for proposals for events, activities, and educational programs to enhance racial and cultural relations at MIT. All members of the MIT community — students, faculty, and staff — are welcome to apply.

Proposals are reviewed on a monthly basis. Applications are to be received by the first school day of any month from October to May. Applicants will be notified of a decision by the middle of the month. For more information or an application, contact the Committee on Campus Race Relations at 3-1706, or racerelations@mit.edu.

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Informal Caroling to follow in Lobby 7
followed by a sumptuous dinner in W11

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<http://web.mit.edu/lem/www/>

MIT Campus Closing A 'One Time Affair'

Closing, from Page 1

ous closings and does not anticipate future closings at MIT.

Numbers still unclear

Curry declined to comment on the exact amount that the Institute will save through the closing, but he said that "it will be a meaningful amount of money."

The Institute spends about \$100 million per month and two-thirds of that is employee salary, which the closing does not affect, said Curry.

The practice of closing college campuses during winter break is not uncommon. Curry admits that closing during the break is more difficult and not often done for a research institute such as MIT because there are laboratories and experiments running constantly.

Curry ensured that critical needs in laboratories and facilities will be met during the closing. "Labs that need to run will run," said Curry.

Working during the closing

Some find the winter break to be the best time to work.

"That time is when I can really work," said Professor of Physics Ulrich J. Becker, referring to the holiday closing days.

Becker, who works at the Laboratory for Nuclear Science, finds that he is most productive during the holiday vacation. "Because everyone is away, I switch off my phone, and get some real work done," he said.

Becker does not think the closing will affect his graduate students because most either leave for the break or they can work on their theses from home.

Inconvenience for some students

Many international students stay for winter vacation. International travel and visa hassles force some students like Basel Al-Naffouri G to stay on-campus for the holidays.

"I'd rather I have the campus open. It's inconvenient with everything closed," said Al-Naffouri, who will not be able to go home to Syria this winter. "The Religious Activities Center and the chapel may be closed as well so I will not be able to pray there," he said.

"During last year's break, a group friends and I watched movies in one of the classrooms with the projectors," said Nasruddin Nazerali '05, who is from Ethiopia. "With the campus closed, it might be an inconvenience, but it's not so bad," he said.

Free food after 11pm.



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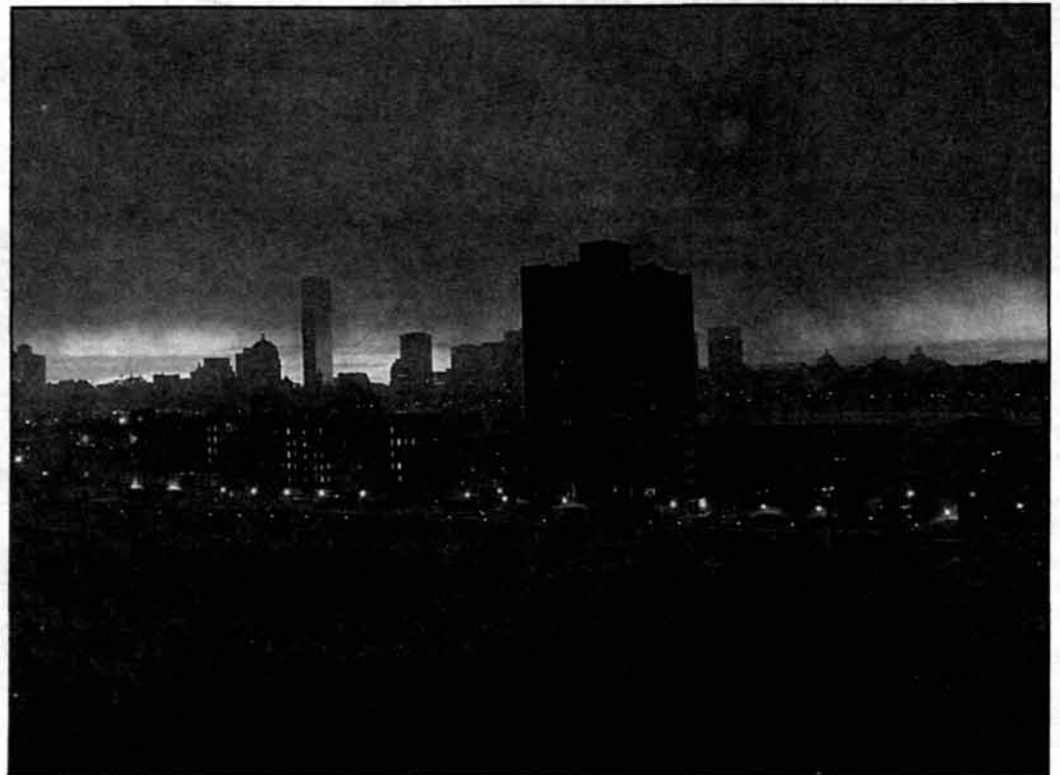
"Iraq: What Now?"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2003
12:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

A discussion of US policy options moderated by
MIT Political Science Professor
Stephen Van Evera,
with **Daniel Benjamin,**
Center for International and Strategic Studies,
Ivo Daalder, Brookings Institution,
Juan Cole, University of Michigan

Wong Auditorium
E51 (Tang Center, 70 Memorial Drive)

starrforum@mit.edu



DMITRY PORNYAGIN—THE TECH

Dark clouds gathered over Boston at sunrise Tuesday, moments before a fierce 15-minute snowstorm. A larger snowstorm arrived a few hours later, leaving a light dusting of snow on the ground.

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Endowment Increase Marks Vest's Tenure

Vest, from Page 1

In 1996, the faculty, charged by Vest, condemned the military's policy of forbidding open homosexuals from participating in MIT's Reserve Officer Training Corps program and attempted, in an effort since suspended, to develop a modified ROTC that would include open homosexuals.

In 1994, Vest encouraged an internal study on discrimination against women faculty in the School of Science ("Just do it," Vest reportedly said).

When, in 1999, the study found evidence of discrimination, Vest won praise for publishing the study and pledging to make MIT a beacon among universities for improving the treatment of minority faculty.

In 2003, MIT led a group of schools as a "friend of the court" in the Supreme Court's examination of affirmative action in university admissions with a forceful, and ultimately successful, defense of the practice.

"Is race a flash point with Chuck Vest? Yes, it is," he said earlier this fall, in condemning a student party he said was racially insensitive. "I grew up in a border state, in West Virginia. I went to segregated



MIT President Charles M. Vest addresses the Undergraduate Association in October.

schools until ninth grade."

Vest future plans unclear

It was not clear last night exactly what Vest planned to announce today, and whether he would return

to teaching. (He is a professor of mechanical engineering.)

Kathryn A. Willmore, the secretary of the corporation, declined to comment or confirm the reports as she left Vest's house late last night.

Through his wife, Vest cancelled an interview with *The Tech* set up last night.

Vest is expected to stay through the summer or until a successor is chosen, the *Times* reported.

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MIT Medical

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Attend a free IAP workshop to learn more about RSI prevention and adaptive computing tools on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, noon-2 p.m., in the ATIC Lab (7-143). More information: x3-7808 or atic@mit.edu.

X RSI: Repetitive Stress Injury

Shortly after starting to use a new workstation, MIT senior Lindsay Price, an aeronautical and astronautical engineering major, noticed that her hands felt a bit strange. "They just got tired more easily and felt clumsier," she explains, "I didn't think it was anything serious."

But within weeks, her symptoms worsened. "I couldn't grip a pencil to take notes in class," she says. "I started waking up with pain in my hands and forearms. Soon it started hurting even to wash my face."

Price was diagnosed with repetitive strain injury, or RSI, an injury to muscles, tendons, and/or nerves in the hands, wrists, elbows, arms, shoulders, back, or neck, caused by overuse or misuse. More than 100 MIT students are diagnosed with RSIs each year, and that's just the tip of the iceberg, says MIT Medical's chief of medicine, David Diamond, M.D., an RSI expert. "A recent MIT student survey suggests that about half of all MIT students have had occasional symptoms from computer overuse, and about 15 percent have more prolonged or severe symptoms."

Price initially responded to her symptoms by trying to type less but found it hard to keep up with class work. Eventually she was referred to MIT's ATIC (Adaptive Technology for Information and Computing) Lab, where

she learned more about ergonomic positioning and workstation set-up. She was also able to try out adaptive hardware and software. "I ended up writing a 20-page paper using voice recognition," Price says. "It's the only way I could have written that paper at that point."

"Individuals with RSI need to change the way they work," Diamond emphasizes. "Medications and bracing may mask symptoms temporarily, but only primary interventions to avoid injury will keep RSI from getting worse."

After giving her injury time to heal, modifying her workstation, and changing her work habits, Price has recovered almost completely. "I've learned to keep my wrists high and hands relaxed when I type" she says. "I take frequent stretch breaks, and when I know I have something long to type, I still use voice recognition."

Price encourages other MIT students to learn more about RSI prevention and pay attention to early symptoms. "I wish I'd taken it seriously sooner," she says. "The soft tissue damage from RSI happens quickly but takes a long time to heal. I know now that if I type in an awful position for two hours, it can take my wrists two weeks to recover."

Learn more about RSI and on-campus RSI resources at <http://web.mit.edu/atic/www/rsi/mitrsi.htm>.

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MIT Students, Administrators Respond to Study on Drinking

Alcohol, from Page 1

white freshmen who did not binge drink in high school were less likely to start binge drinking as college students if their campuses had higher proportions of African American, Latino, Asian, or older students.

In addition, incoming white freshmen that did binge drink in high school were less likely to continue drinking in this way at campuses with higher percentages of low-risk drinking groups.

In an effort to reduce binge drinking cases, the study suggests creating a campus environment that would attract a diverse student body, and encouraging women, minority and older students to live on campus, and in fraternity and sorority houses.

MIT students respond to study

According to a survey conducted by the Community Development and Substance Abuse program, 84 percent of MIT students drink zero to four drinks per week, and 50 percent of MIT students consume an average of zero drinks per week.

These numbers seem a little low for freshmen Irene S. Tobias '07 and Heather D. Coffin '07.

Although Coffin herself drinks very little, she has seen plenty of drinking among the freshmen class. When asked if the findings of the Harvard School of Public Health study made sense for the MIT com-

munity, she shook her head.

"From what I've seen, [drinking] may be more evenly distributed between men and women. The desire to drink may be the same," Coffin said.

"Drinking is a behavior that takes place in a context and whatever the context, people are influenced by the environment that they are drinking in," said Dr. Alan Berkowitz, one of the founders of the Social Norm Theory, a widely used marketing technique that promotes healthy norms about alcohol consumption in order to reduce college binge drinking.

"This study is proving something that makes intuitive sense based on all the things that we know about college student drinking patterns," Berkowitz said.

Paul J. Mitchell G agrees that a person's environment will affect their behavior. "If students are around people who are acting stupid, they will have an influence," said Mitchell.

"Education might be good for freshmen who are living away from home for the first time," said Mitchell.

The Harvard study also makes sense to Trujillo.

"Some incoming students come with an established pattern of drinking, and some increase their drinking once arriving on the college campus," said Trujillo. "The first semester, even the first six weeks of

a student's college career can really set certain patterns of behavior."

"We try and intervene early with students who may have had some experiences with alcohol, and [education] is one way to change behavior so those issues don't exacerbate in the future," said Trujillo.

'Binge drinking' is 'controversial'

The Harvard study defined binge drinking as the consumption of at least five drinks in a row for men or four drinks in a row for women during a single episode. This is a common definition of binge drinking and is "now widely used in both research and policy," said Dr. George Dowdall of Saint Joseph's University.

Trujillo thinks that although the term "binge drinking" is used for research, it doesn't accurately describe many college students' drinking experiences.

"'Binge drinking' is a very controversial term," Trujillo said. "'Binge drinking,' the way the term is defined, is rather ambiguous and doesn't take into account blood alcohol levels," said Trujillo.

According to estimates from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 1,400 college students die each year from alcohol-related injuries. In addition, research has shown that binge drinking is associated with lower grades, vandalism, and physical and sexual violence in students.



MARCUS DAHLEM—THE TECH

In the spirit of the holiday season, a colossal wreath hangs on the entrance of 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

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UNTREATED DEPRESSION

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<http://www.save.org>

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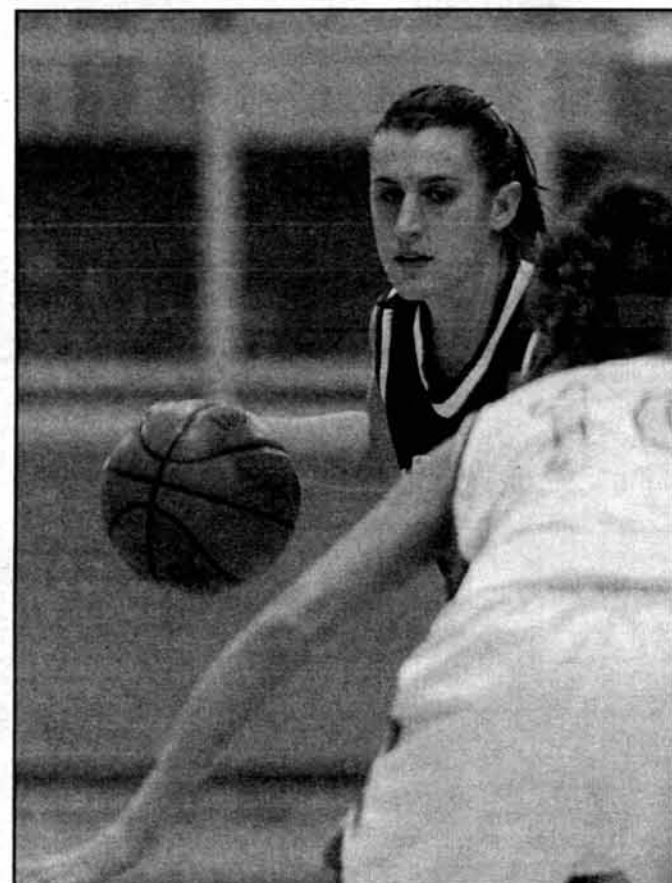
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7:00PM

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PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Andrea J. Dooley '06 looks beyond an Emmanuel College defender during Tuesday's varsity basketball game.

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The SHARQ Arabic Music Ensemble is a traditional Arabic Tarab group performing on original acoustic instruments with vocals and chorus. Their repertoire consists of suites and songs from the Andalusian period to the modern Egyptian classical music of the mid-1900s, all chosen to illustrate the rich and buoyant possibilities of the genre. Composed of distinguished professional musicians, SHARQ has performed all over the United States and is committed to sharing this unique musical heritage through concerts and educational presentations.

ARABIC MUSIC ENSEMBLE

All members of the community are welcome. Seating is limited, please purchase tickets early.

MIT Arab Students' Organization proudly presents:
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tradition and high culture

8:00 PM
Friday, Dec 5th 2003
Lobdell Hall,
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Tickets:

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\$5 students (w/ ID), \$8 non-students,

Door tickets:
\$8 students (w/ ID), \$12 non-students,

Event sponsored by the MIT Arab Student Organization and Green Hall.
Funded in part by a Director's Grant from the Council for the Arts at MIT, the MIT Club of Saudi Arabia, the Office of the Dean for Student Life/Dean for Undergraduate Education, and the Agha Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.