

Stata Center to Open in March

By Jenny Zhang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Ray and Maria Stata Center will open as MIT's Building 32 over spring break, said David J. Silverman, a facilities department senior project manager.

The opening, originally planned for this month, was delayed to have a more complete building upon move-in rather than one where construction would be working around the inhabitants, he said.

"It was a quality-of-life issue and whether they wanted people coming in to paint the walls" while they were in their offices, he said.

All that is left to finishing construction is "tying up loose ends, touch-ups, networking, nothing huge," Silverman said.

The \$285 million complex, in progress since 1999, will house the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems, and the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy.

Decision made in December

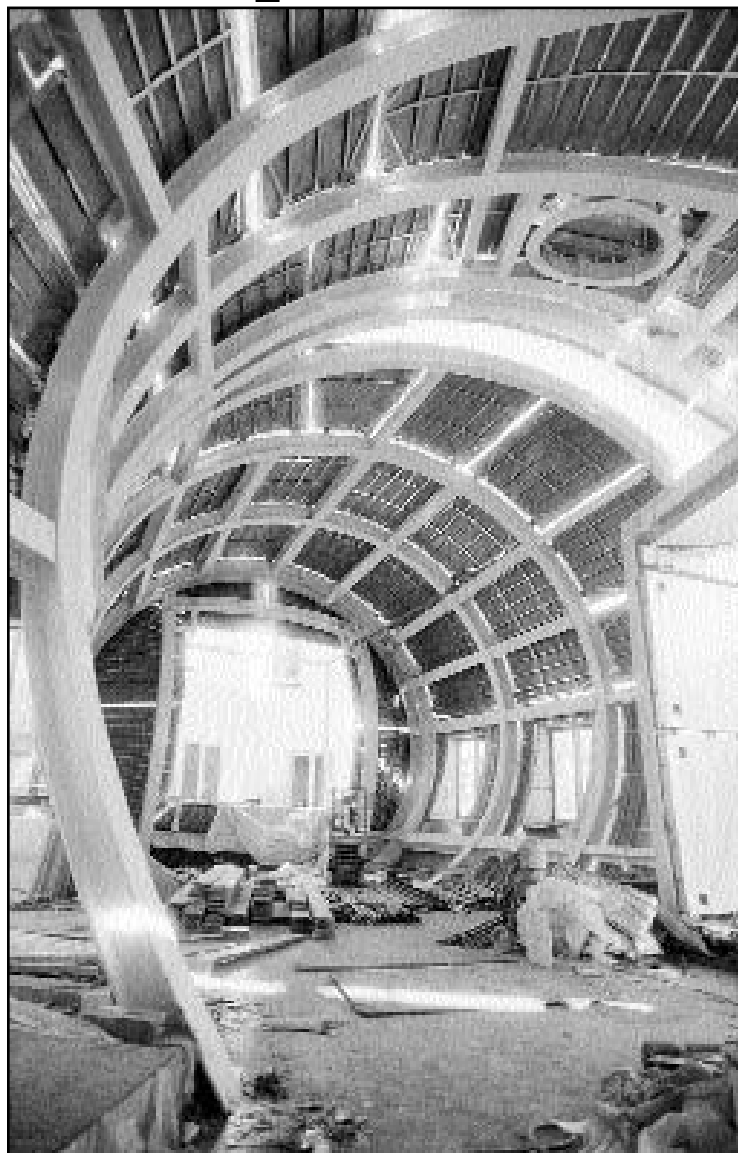
Christopher J. Terman PhD '78 of CSAIL said that the building's management team decided in mid-December to put off much of the move until spring break, the week of March 22 to 26.

"We could have moved in at the end of January," Terman said, "but people thought that it would be panicky."

Smaller groups from linguistics and L.I.D.S. may move in early March, but the schedule is fluid, Silverman said.

Location of classes undecided

Many classes, principally in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Linguistics and Philosophy, and Health Sciences and Technology, were scheduled to be in the Stata Center this spring. "We built the spring schedule without the five



FRANK DABEK—THE TECH

Work continued on the Stata Center, future home of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, this week. CSAIL was originally scheduled to move into its new space in January, but the move has been postponed by construction delays.

[Stata] rooms in the equation" as back-up for this kind of situation, said Assistant Registrar Peter D. Bedrosian.

"The plan that I know of is that

each class will decide whether or not to move" after spring break, Terman said.

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iCampus Funds Four New Student Projects

By Ray C. He
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT-Microsoft iCampus partnership has awarded its fifth round of funding for student projects. Four groups will receive \$30,000 for the next 12 months, working on software to help dormitory desk workers, TV screens to display campus news around MIT, GPS receivers to track MIT's sailboats, and computer-aided molecule models, said Rebecca G. Bisbee, an iCampus administrator.

The teams are asked to register for an iCampus course, 6.096, which teaches project management skills to students, Bisbee said.

"I think one of the best things these students get out of this is how to run a research project, because that's probably what they'll do when they graduate," she said.

FrontDesk to help desk workers

One of the teams, known as FrontDesk, plans to write software to help dormitory desk workers communicate with residents, keep guest lists, and track rented movies and

dormitory equipment. It will allow residents to track their packages, check movie rental status, and manage their personal guest lists, with a Web browser, according to the project's proposal.

Edmund L. Kay '05, one of the team members, said the proposal grew out of a team project last year for User Interface Design and Implementation (6.893).

The other team members are Luxiou Chen '04, the principal investigator, and Jennifer Liu '04.

The FrontDesk team has already contacted "a handful of deans, who were very supportive of our ideas" and several dormitories, Kay said. "Simmons and McCormick agree to test out prototypes of our system if we give them hardware," he said.

A typical use of the system would be to track mail and inform residents when they have new packages, Kay said, using a hand-held personal digital assistant. "The FrontDesk worker would be processing mail, see the

iCampus, Page 19

MIT Upgrades Networks In East Campus, Bexley

By Michael E. Rolish
STAFF REPORTER

Major network upgrades will soon be finished at East Campus and Bexley Hall, with more dormitories to follow next year.

"We are almost finished with cutting over to the new systems in EC and Bexley," said Adam D. D'Amico '99, a network engineer for Information Systems.

Residents in these dormitories will have two 100 megabit-per-second Ethernet ports per person, as

well as wireless Ethernet service, known as 802.11 or Wi-Fi.

Dormitories that already have these services are Baker House, Senior House, the Warehouse, Simmons Hall, and Sidney-Pacific, D'Amico said.

D'Amico said that the upgrades have stayed on budget. The upgrades are funded by both I/S and the Housing Office.

"The total cost to Housing for this needed upgrade is just over one million dollars," said Karen A. Nilsson, the director of housing.

In the past year, planned substantial upgrades at New House were put on hold, and upgrades at Next House were scaled back, although there was some hardware replacement. "We were able to upgrade some of the backbone links in the building," said Angie Kelic G, the Resnet coordinator, referring to connections between sections of Next House.

Other dormitories also saw improvements. "We completed some upgrade work in the MacGregor low-rise to switch it over to a new backbone," Kelic said. Eastgate, Westgate, and Edgerton also had some connections upgraded, she said.

"There are still quite a few residential networks that don't perform as well as we'd like given the usage their residents subject them to," D'Amico said. He listed Eastgate, Westgate, Tang, Burton-Conner, New House, and Next House as examples.

D'Amico said he expects one to

Upgrades, Page 16

Prometheus No Longer Publishing

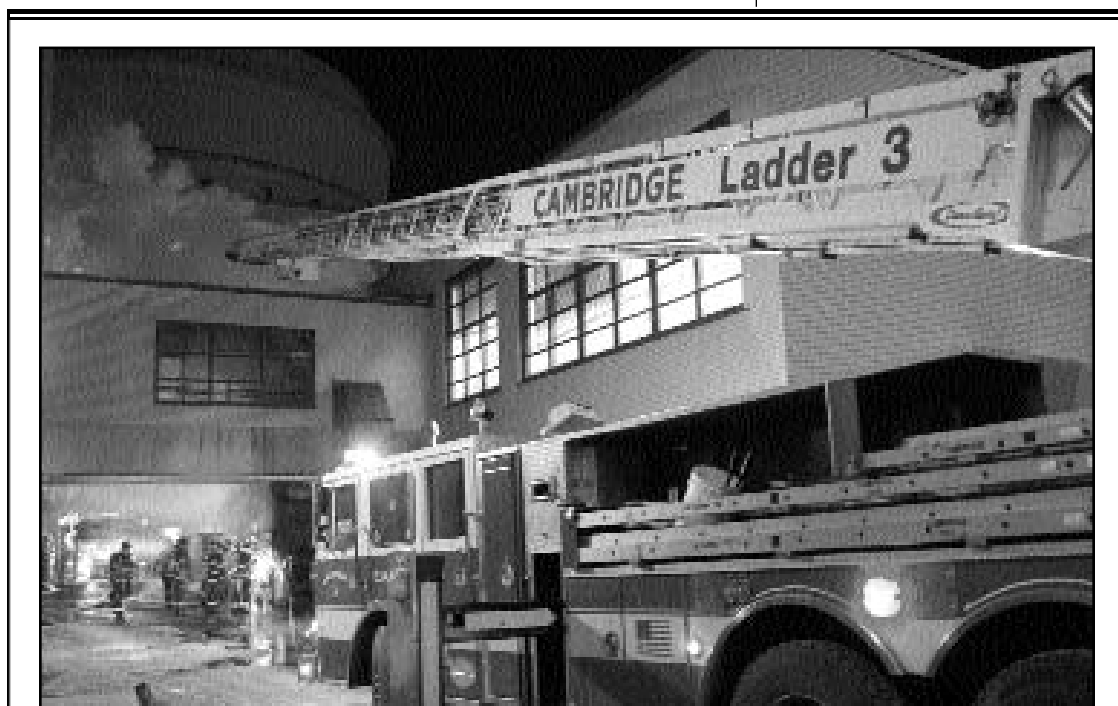
By Tongyan Lin
STAFF REPORTER

Prometheus, MIT's monthly newspaper about responsibility and freedom, has disbanded after two issues, said Tara R. Diduch '06, the editor in chief.

Prometheus was granted provisional recognition by the Association of Student Activities in September, after a multi-month hard-fought effort by the paper. But the publication never fully achieved ASA recognition, she said. Diduch said Prometheus was given 60 days to file the paperwork, but the group chose not to.

Prometheus, which published last April and May, closed down after the October issue continued to be delayed and Diduch stepped

Prometheus, Page 17



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

Cambridge firefighters extinguish a dumpster fire behind Building 4 Monday evening. The small blaze filled several hallways with smoke and caused the temporary closure of the overhead walkway between Buildings 4 and 12. Police think a cigarette butt may have sparked the fire.

This is *The Tech's* last IAP issue. We will return to our normal Tuesday-Friday schedule on February 3.



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NEWS

Early applications dropped by 20 percent this year, but regular applications rose 8 percent.

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WORLD & NATION

New Computer Virus Hits Networks

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A new malicious computer program continued to spread rapidly throughout the Internet on Tuesday, swamping e-mail message inboxes and crashing corporate computer servers in what some computer security experts are predicting may become one of the largest outbreaks of a computer virus.

The virus-like program, called a worm and known as Mydoom, Norvag and other names, is proliferating through e-mail attachments and file-sharing services.

"It's the biggest e-mail outbreak we've had," said Mikko Hypponen, director of anti-virus research at F-Secure, a computer security company based in Helsinki, Finland. On Tuesday afternoon, he estimated, nearly 20 percent of all e-mail traffic in the world was attributable to the proliferation of Mydoom.

Several computer-security experts said there were no apparent clues in the worm's code to indicate its origins.

While the replication of Mydoom had not slowed general Internet response time, several Internet security analysts said, some servers were collapsing under the deluge of mail, or were being forced offline.

NASA Plans to Fly Shuttles by Fall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Despite uncertainties about how NASA will comply with some requirements for returning the shuttle fleet to space, officials of the agency said Tuesday that they were making enough progress to stick to a tentative launching date of September or October.

Michael Kostelnik, the agency's deputy associate administrator for the shuttle and space station programs, said engineers for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration were doing extensive work in redesigning shuttle systems and procedures to comply with recommendations of the board that investigated the Columbia accident.

Work is progressing in such areas as redesigning the shuttle fuel tank to prevent it from shedding debris at liftoff and developing techniques to repair shuttle damage in space, but these efforts take time, officials said.

"We'd like to be further along, given a target in September," Kostelnik said. "But we are still progressing."

Last week, an advisory panel appointed by NASA said in an interim report that the agency was making uneven progress in complying with 15 recommendations that must be met before shuttles fly again.

China Has Outbreak of Bird Flu

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BANGKOK, THAILAND

China said late on Tuesday that avian influenza had been found in fowl in three regions, making it the latest Asian country to confirm cases of the dangerous virus, which has killed at least nine people so far.

The official New China News Agency said that lab tests had confirmed that ducks were infected at a farm in the southern autonomous region of Guangxi Zhuang, near the border with Vietnam. Preliminary tests also showed bird flu among chickens at a household in the central province of Hubei and among ducks at a household in the central province of Hunan.

All of the Chinese bird cases involve the deadly H5N1 strain of Type A flu virus, which has spread among chickens from Japan to Cambodia, and has infected a dozen people in Thailand and Vietnam, with many more cases suspected. But the New China News Agency said no human cases had been found in China.

Other countries that have reported the virus in chickens are South Korea, Indonesia and Laos. South Korea has confirmed the same virus in chickens, Taiwan and Pakistan have reported milder strains, and Indonesia and Laos have reported bird flu strains that they are still trying to identify.

Kerry Wins New Hampshire Primary, Dean Takes Second

By Adam Nagourney

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MANCHESTER, N.H.

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts won the Democratic presidential primary here Tuesday, dealing Howard Dean his second big defeat in eight days in states where his campaign had once been confident of victory.

The results completed a distinct turnaround for Kerry, the four-term senator from Massachusetts whose campaign just a month ago had been viewed by even his closest friends as nearly dead.

"Thank you, New Hampshire, for lifting up this campaign and a cause of America that belongs not to the privileged, not to a few but belongs to all Americans, for all of the people," an exultant Kerry said at a victory rally Tuesday evening.

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and Gen. Wesley K. Clark were virtually tied for a distant third place in incomplete returns behind Dean. And Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut trailed in fifth place, with some associates saying that Lieberman was close to folding his campaign.

Dean's aides, taking a page from presidential candidates from Eugene

McCarthy to Bill Clinton, sought even before the polls had closed to portray his second-place showing as a win, noting that it had come just eight days after his third-place showing in Iowa.

And Dean, in an interview on "Larry King Live" on CNN after the polls closed, pronounced himself pleased with his second defeat.

"We came in a solid second, and I think that's good — and we recovered from our performance in Iowa," Dean said. "I'm very pleased."

He went on to hint at what presumably will be his line of attack on Kerry should this become the two-way race that aides to both men said they are looking for.

"I think the only way to beat George Bush is to have someone from outside Washington come down and do something for working families again," said Dean, a former governor of Vermont.

And Dean's campaign announced that he would visit nine cities in states where there are Democratic contests next Tuesday, and noted his huge base of contributors and supporters.

Still, by any measure, the results were a significant setback

for Dean, who had all but moved into New Hampshire and Iowa for the past year, in hopes of replicating Jimmy Carter's strategy by which a little-known governor wins his party's nomination and becomes president of the United States.

And it presents him with a challenge as the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination moves into a very different phase: From the living rooms and small settings of Iowa and New Hampshire where Dean had excelled to what in effect will be a national primary next Tuesday fought out on the network news and with television commercials.

A survey of New Hampshire voters leaving the polls found that while there was overwhelming opposition to the war in Iraq, that was not a driving issue.

Instead, voters were much more likely to name health care as the issue upon which they based their votes here Tuesday. And among those who opposed the war, Kerry, who voted for the Iraq resolution, had nearly as much support as Dean, who built his once high-flying candidacy upon his opposition to the war.

Bush Declines to Repeat Claim That Iraq Had Illegal Weapons

By David E. Sanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush declined on Tuesday to repeat his claims that evidence that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction would be found in Iraq, but he insisted that the war was justified because Saddam had posed "a grave and gathering threat to America and the world."

Asked by reporters on Tuesday if he would repeat his earlier expressions of confidence that the weapons would be found in light of recent statements by the outgoing chief weapons inspector in Iraq, David A. Kay, that Saddam had gotten rid of them well before the war, Bush did not repeat them.

Questioned at an appearance with the visiting president of Poland about Kay's remarks, Bush said, "I think it's very important for us to let the Iraq Survey Group do its work, so we can find out the facts and compare the facts to what was thought."

He praised Kay's work and came to the defense of the CIA, whose reporting on Iraq's weapons programs Kay sharply criticized in interviews over the weekend. "These are unbelievably hard-working, dedicated people who are doing a great job for America," Bush said of the intelligence community.

Bush said he would await the final conclusions of the Iraq Survey Group — which Kay headed until he resigned last week — before reaching any conclusions about

whether the intelligence he relied upon was flawed.

At the White House and on Capitol Hill, many officials said they doubted Bush would have the luxury of waiting for final reports.

Democrats demanded that an independent panel examine how the National Intelligence Estimate — the 2002 document that Bush used as the basis of his comments that Iraq posed a direct threat to the United States and its allies — could have been so flawed. The White House expressed no interest in the creation of such a panel.

"I think it is critical that we follow up and find out what went wrong," the Senate minority leader, Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said on Tuesday.

WEATHER

Snow Returns

By J.R. Moskaitis

Last night's snowfall marks an end to three consecutive weeks of almost no precipitation, and signifies a bit of a change from our recent cold and dry pattern. For the last few weeks, the Northeast has almost continuously been ensconced in the middle of cold, dry air masses originating in the Arctic. Hence, as storm systems developed on the southern and eastern peripheries of the cold air, they stayed well away from this region. However, in the past few days the center of the arctic air has shifted westward, leaving us exposed to storms riding up its eastern flank. Last night's system looks to be the first of three such storms. After a brief respite tomorrow, the next storm is expected to bring some light snow Friday into Friday night. The track of this storm is highly uncertain though, so keep abreast of the latest forecasts. Finally, a third storm is anticipated sometime early next week. Between storms, expect bursts of cold and windy weather, much like we have become all too familiar with recently.

Extended Forecast

Today: Morning snow tapering off to flurries by afternoon. High 26°F (-3°C).

Tonight: Clearing and becoming windy. Low 15°F (-9°C).

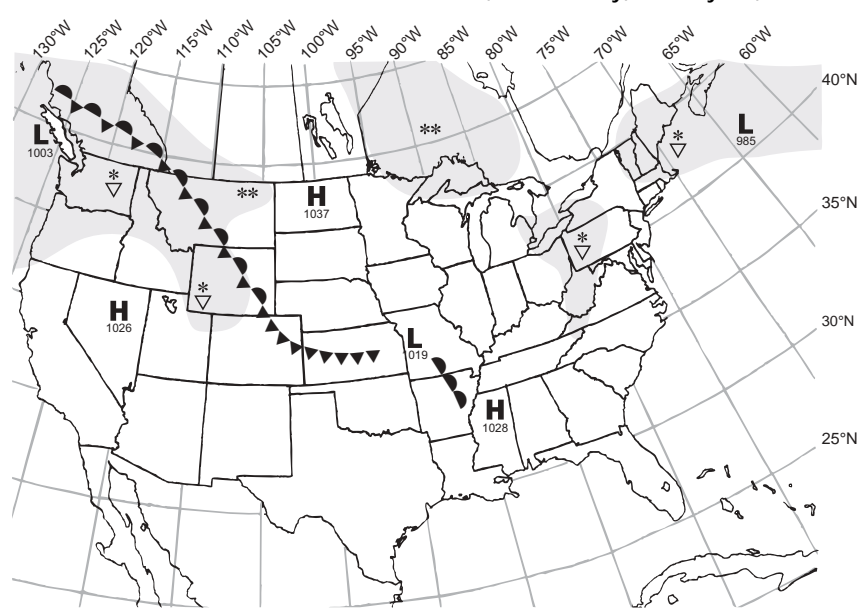
Thursday: Very windy, with scattered snow showers. High 23°F (-5°C).

Friday: Light snow possible late, likely during the night. High 27°F (-3°C).

Saturday: Sunny, but cold and breezy. High 22°F (-6°C).

Sunday: Continued chilly. High 26°F (-3°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 28, 2003



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Fore Sail, Cheape: Bargains on Ebay, But Spelling Is Optional

By Diana Jean Schemo
THE NEW YORK TIMES

When Holly Marshall wanted to sell a pair of dangling earrings, a popular style these days, she listed them on eBay once, and got no takers. She tried a second time, and still no interest.

Was it the price? The fuzzy picture? Maybe it was the description: a beautiful pair of chandaleer earrings.

Such is the eBay underworld of misspellers, where the clueless — and sometimes just careless — sell laptop computers, throwing knives, Art Deko vases, camras, comferTERS and saphires.

They do get bidders, but rarely very many. Often the buyers are

those who troll for spelling slip-ups, buying items on the cheap and selling them all over again on eBay, but with the right spelling and for the right price.

John H. Green, a jeweler in Central Florida who sells by the name toecheese1, is one of them.

He once bought a box of gers for \$2. They were gears for pocket watches, which he cleaned up and put back on the auction block with the right spelling. They sold for \$200.

"I've bought and sold stuff on eBay and Yahoo! that I bought for next to nothing" because of poor spelling or vague descriptions, Green said.

David Scroggins, who lives in

Milwaukee, also searches for misspellings. His company provides entertainment for weddings and corporate events, and microphone systems for shows at Wisconsin's casinos. He has bought Hubbell electrical cords for a tenth of their usual cost by searching for not only Hubell but also Hubbel. And he now operates his entire business by laptop computers, having bought three Compaqs for a pittance simply by asking for Compacts instead.

No one knows how much misspelling is out there in eBay land, where more than \$23 billion worth of goods were sold last year. The company does flag common misspellings, but wrong spellings can also turn up similar misspellings.

Commission Investigating Sept. 11 Attacks Seeks Extension Until July

By Philip Shenon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The independent commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks announced on Tuesday that it would seek an extension of its deadline to complete the investigation until at least July, raising the prospect of a public fight with the White House and a final report delivered in the heat of the presidential campaign.

The White House and Republican congressional leaders have said previously that they saw no need to extend the congressionally mandated deadline, now set for May 27, and a spokesman for House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois said

Tuesday that Hastert would oppose any legislation to grant the extension.

But commission officials said Tuesday that there was no way for them to finish their work on time — a situation that panel members attribute in part to delays by the Bush administration in turning over documents and other evidence.

The commission said Tuesday that it had still not yet a commitment from the administration for public testimony from prominent White House officials, including Condoleeza Rice, the president's national security adviser. The panel said it was still in negotiations over the possibility of testimony from

President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

"We are telling the Congress and the president what we need to do the best possible job," said the panel's chairman, Thomas H. Kean, the former Republican governor of New Jersey, in announcing the panel's decision to seek an extension of at least two months. "Much work remains, and some hard work in finalizing our report."

The commission's vice chairman, Lee H. Hamilton, a Democrat and former House member from Indiana, said the panel was "mindful of the politics" of an extension, "but if we do not have the extra time, we would not have as many hearings as we would like."

Israeli Settler Leaders Say Sharon Offered Unacceptable Deal

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Leaders of the Israeli settlement movement said Tuesday that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had proposed dismantling seven isolated settlements as part of a plan of "unilateral disengagement" from the Palestinians.

The settler leaders said Sharon promised in exchange for their support to seek legislation banning the removal of more settlements before a final agreement with the Palestinians.

Sharon said that any report of such negotiations was false.

"I have no intention of legislating any law that would tie the government's hands," he said. He said his advisers had only just begun drawing up his plan.

The settler leaders said that they rejected the offer at a meeting in recent days with a representative of Sharon. Bentzi Lieberman, the chairman of the Yesha Council, the main settlers group, told Israel radio that the proposal amounted to "the unilateral transfer of Jews."

A public fight between the settlers and Sharon could potentially serve the interests of both. For the settlers, it could signal the right-wing elements of Sharon's government to stiffen their opposition to his plan; for Sharon, it could signal Washington that he has limited political room to maneuver.

Six Killed, Four Wounded in Iraq

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Six U.S. soldiers were killed and four wounded, at least one critically, when homemade bombs exploded in two separate roadside attacks on Tuesday in central Iraq, military officials said. An Iraqi civilian was killed and several others injured in one of the bombings.

Also on Tuesday, a gunman opened fire on two cars carrying Cable News Network workers south of Baghdad, killing two Iraqi employees and slightly injuring a cameraman, according to a military spokesman and a CNN statement.

The bursts of violence came on a day when U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan SM '72 announced that he would send a team to assess the viability of holding direct elections here in the next several months, provided that security and other practical arrangements were in place for that team.

Dan Senor, a spokesman for the Coalition Provisional Authority, said in a news conference here that the occupation authority was already working with some security experts the United Nations had sent to Iraq to arrange security.

The first bomb attack took place in Khaldiyah, 60 miles west of Baghdad, at 12:55 p.m. The bomb killed three U.S. soldiers and critically wounded another. One Iraqi civilian was killed and several others were injured. Soldiers arriving to help the wounded came under small-arms fire, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, a spokesman for the occupation forces.

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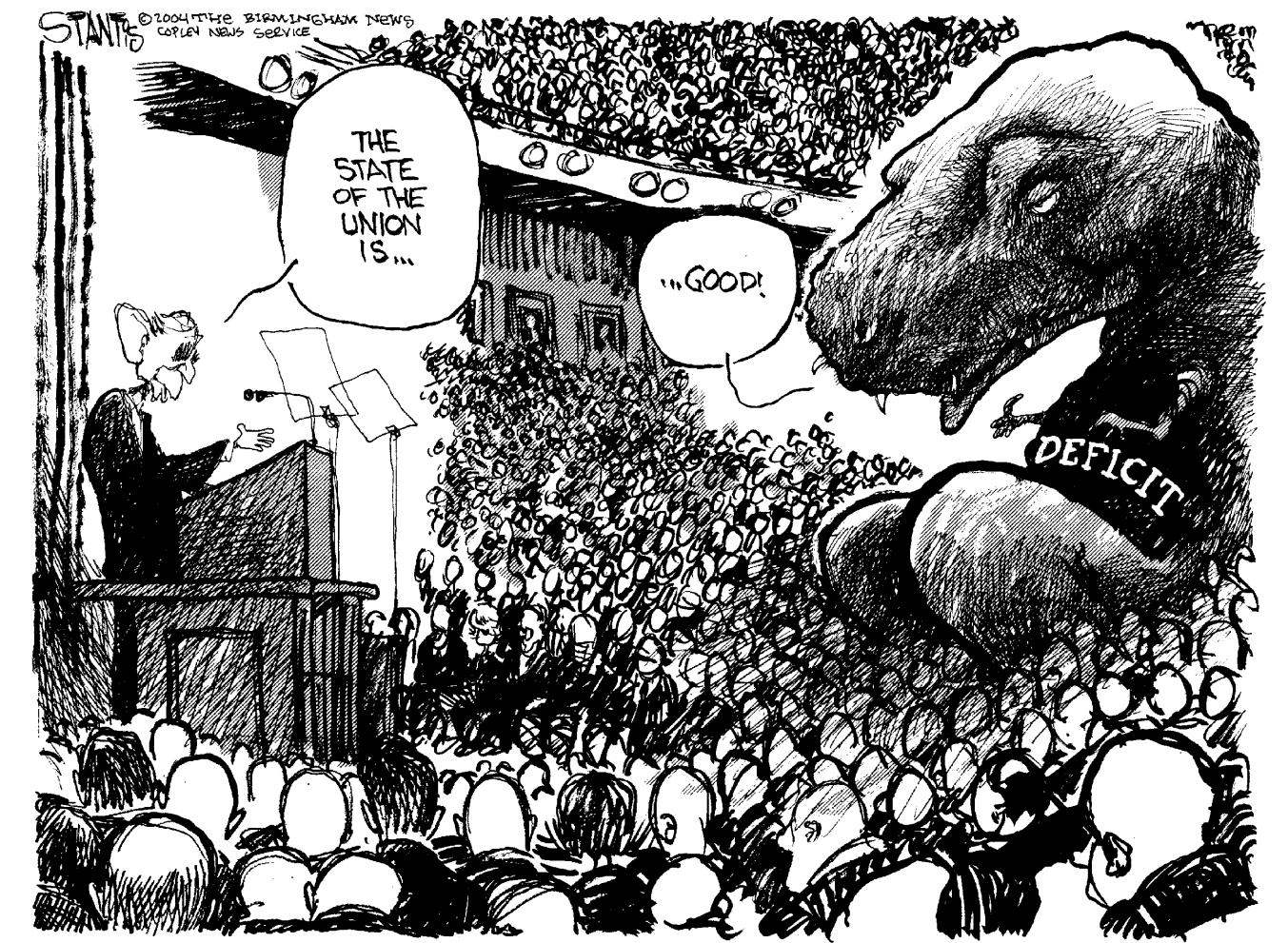
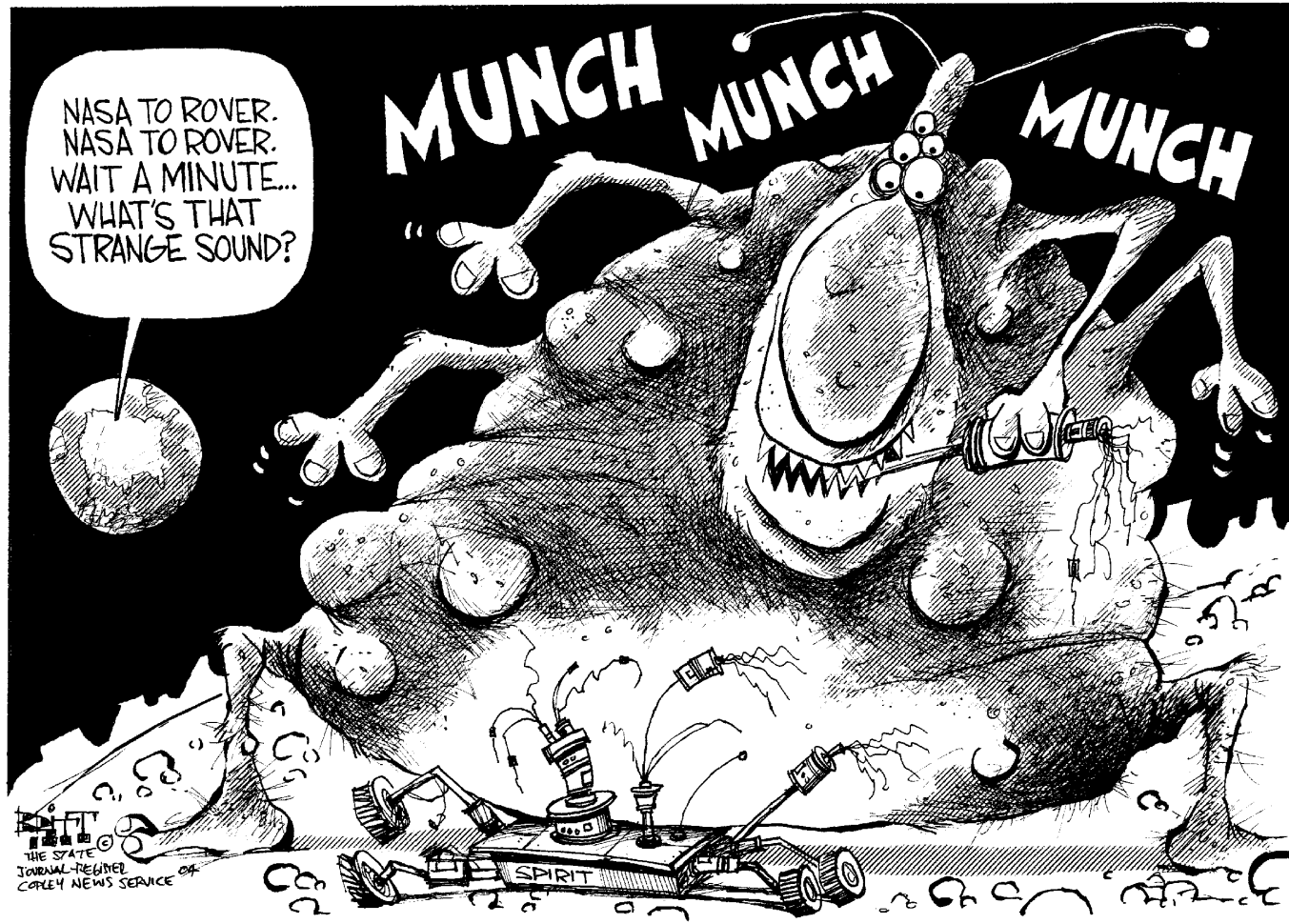
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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit

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Erratum

An August 22, 2001, photo caption misidentified a member of band A Fire Inside playing at the Vans Warped Tour. The photo shows bassist Hunter Bergan, not guitarist Jade Puget.

In Defense of Space Exploration

Matt Silver

While many in the MIT community are likely thrilled by President's Bush's newly announced initiative to return men to the moon, others remain more skeptical. Echoing arguments voiced this week by Democratic hopefuls in New Hampshire, some cynically suggest that, among other things, the plan is an election-year gesture, it will cost too much money, our national resources and attention should be focused on other areas (such as health-care), and that, in short, the gains from human space exploration are really not worth the effort. While such rhetoric may sound good on a campaign platform, it ignores the details of the initiative and overlooks both the tangible and intangible benefits that exploration provides. Let's take a moment to review both the plan and benefits of space exploration in general.

First, is this an election-year stunt? The simple answer to this question, unless one puts party politics before national interest, is: who cares? Let us determine the merit of the plan based on its substance, not based on who articulated it.

Regarding cost, let's put some things in perspective. NASA's FY03 budget was roughly \$15.5 billion. The Bush initiative calls for \$1 billion in new funds spread over the next five years, and \$11 billion re-allocated from existing NASA programs, resulting in an increase of \$200 million a year. For comparison, the U.S. will spend roughly \$400 billion on defense in 2004 — more than the next fifteen countries combined. Congress has recently tabled the \$328 billion Consolidated Appropriations Bill for FY04, which includes no less than \$10.7 billion in earmarks. These are funds dedicated to particular congressional districts, often benefiting little more than a specific congressman's election effort. California will soon have a "bus project for Mickey Mouse at Disneyland in Anaheim," courtesy of Uncle Sam. I hope the implication is clear: if federal over-spending worries you, the \$200 million NASA initiative should not be your first concern.

Those opposed to space programs will here point out that federal over-spending in one

area does not justify it in another. There are many reasons, however, why that increase and the plan that goes with it constitute wise resource allocation. First, the initiative opens the possibility for much needed change at NASA. The Columbia tragedy threw light on major internal and organizational problems at the agency. The Columbia Accident Investigation Board report describes the tragedy not as an isolated incident, but as symptomatic of a broken safety and management culture in which innovation and safety often take a back seat to bureaucracy and political infighting. The bold mandate for an \$11 billion internal re-organization coming from the highest levels of government will finally give NASA headquarters the authority to cancel unnecessary programs, streamline operations not consistent with the stated goal, and override political pressure that otherwise stifled change. In short, an increase of \$200 million a year will

Money spent on space research and development does not disappear into thin air. It goes toward creating knowledge, jobs, new businesses, and technologies, many of which have direct application to other activities.

greatly improve the current \$15 billion annual investment in space exploration, and give NASA much-needed direction. I'm not sure the bus project at Disneyland gets the same bang for its buck.

Some, of course, maintain that the U.S. should simply not be involved in human space flight to begin with. This brings us to the classic argument of whether human space exploration in general is a good thing, worth reviewing in light of the current plans.

First, money spent on space research and development does not disappear into thin air. It goes toward creating knowledge, jobs, new businesses, and technologies, many of which have direct application to other activities. This is the spin-off argument. A moon initiative will require increased sophistication in, to name a few areas, solar-power generation, cryogenic technologies (cooling and storing liquefied gas), and human-robot interaction. These advances in the state-of-the-art will benefit energy, environment, health care, and many other areas. Many of the capabilities required for human exploration are synergistic with defense needs. Bush's initiative will likely lead NASA and the Department of Defense to pool resources, lowering development costs for both agencies.

There will also be important scientific

returns. The NASA Hubble Space Telescope has literally changed our understanding of the universe. A telescope on the moon, shielded from both solar and earth radiation, has the potential to see further into the universe than anything previously built. During the Apollo moon landings, we arguably learned more about lunar geology and the solar system in general than we could have in many decades of robotic probes. This kind of science merits government funding.

An often-ignored benefit of space activities involves its capacity to increase international cooperation and generate goodwill. A return to the moon will bring the international community together in an activity that pits man against the cosmos. An international effort will not only lower costs through the pooling of resources, it will create concrete links between the U.S., Russia, Japan, Europe, even China; and this will have tremendous symbolic over-tones.

Last, but certainly not least, while space enthusiasts often point somewhat apologetically to the benefits described above in order to justify space exploration, there is a deeper reason for their fascination. It is the same reason that gives space exploration its great symbolic weight — the innate human desire to learn more, to see more, to explore the unknown. While this need does not easily find its way onto a budget sheet, it has an important place in society.

Stanford historian Wyn Wachorst has noted that the mythic and poetic possibilities unearthed by the space programs of the 20th century have changed us forever. Some argue that the imagery of the Apollo program — the Earth floating above the lunar surface in a sea of black — sparked a sea change in society that eventually resulted in the environmental movement. Exploration serves a purpose. It expands our awareness and conception of the possible. It reminds us with unparalleled immediacy that, after all is said and done, life is about more than the sum of our budgets, and that there is more to know.

Money should be spent on health care and means-tested social programs, and hundreds of billions of dollars each year are. But an important point often eludes those who argue adamantly that every last nickel should be spent on such programs: major advances — advances that benefit all humans — rarely occur if society itself does not grow, and this can only be achieved if while we look inward at the problems before us, we do not forget to look outward and take some risks.

Matt Silver is a graduate student in the Technology and Policy Program.

Confronting IM Ringers

Ruth Miller

This past Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, as I lay in a gurney at the base of Loon Mountain in New Hampshire, the doctor on staff asked me a lot of questions. Between the small talk, insurance procedure, and the actual diagnosis, one stood out as a bit odd.

"Oh, MIT? So you probably don't play any sports that I should be warning you against?"

Maybe it was the painkillers, or the fact that my collegiate athletic career honestly consists of two intramural hockey games and a PE class, but I should have pointed out to him that our men's water polo team just won the Division III National Championship. I should have bragged about our 41 varsity sports teams. Instead, I just nodded as I lay in my gurney, thinking about the kinetics of the accident I'd just had and wishing I had a basic grasp of human anatomy so I could understand what he was talking about.

It is no secret that MIT isn't renowned for its athletics, but we do have a massive intramural sports program. The range of IM sports offered is only topped by their sheer accessibility even for beginners through competition in the C and D leagues. In the case of ice hockey, D league is a league for people who can barely skate. I didn't put on ice skates until a few months ago, and only attempted to play IM ice hockey when I was continually assured that in at the D league level, I'd be playing against other people that couldn't skate. Imagine my surprise when I learned I was goaltending against a team with four people that played at an A league skill level. MIT holds a reputation for academic honesty, and it's a shame this level of honesty doesn't extend to other aspects of students' lives.

High schools and colleges exist that put more emphasis on sports than MIT. At those places, a few men's varsity teams shadow the rest of the athletics programs. Those individuals that aren't the very best are never given a chance for glory. Some people never try, some concede to compete in the shadows, and others become perennial tailgaters.

MIT is not a place for tailgaters. The attitude that it takes to survive here does not condone spectating. While other schools forbid their freshmen to do research, MIT champions the UROP. While other schools have a measly two-week winter break, MIT created the Independent Activities Period. While other schools have a few student organizations representing a slim range of interests, MIT is home to hundreds of clubs and organizations. MIT is designed to accommodate people with a diverse range of interests, and strives to encourage its students to try something new. This philosophy applies to every aspect of student life, including athletics via the IM program.

Unfortunately, that theory fails when someone purposefully competes in a league well below their skill level. These "ringers" ruin the experience for everyone else, and take the fun out of the game. The IM program suffers because newcomers are intimidated out of playing. Beginners suffer because they are deprived of the experience of trying something new. As this continues, a large portion of the student body could eventually come to dismiss IM sports as an option in their daily activities, for fear of certain failure.

In an atmosphere where students strive for the highest grades in the most difficult classes, why is it acceptable to make an exception for athletics? Or is this just another case of blowing the curve for the rest of the class?

Either way, it doesn't appear that people are going to stop anytime soon. It is in the athletic department's best interest to find obvious ringers and ban them from play. Start by creating more opportunities for talented players to compete at their own level, but if they continue to saturate the C and D leagues, enforce consequences.

MIT's athletic program draws its strength from its athletes. We might not have the fastest, the strongest, or the largest athletes on our teams, but we do have the smartest. We also have an atmosphere that fosters teamwork and competition with oneself. These are great qualities to have in an athlete. With the diverse opportunities already available, MIT should be an athletics powerhouse. If nothing else, more students should be taking advantage of IM sports.

Is it worth it to the department of athletics to take an interest in the integrity of the IM sports program? It's up to their referees to make that call.

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Not So Confident, Not So Strong

Chen Zhao

In last Tuesday's State of the Union address, President George W. Bush said the "state of our union is confident and strong." Perhaps Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards put it best by saying the union that is strong is "the union of insiders and special interests."

The President's speech was undoubtedly written well and even delivered well (his speech coaches have truly worked wonders on him in the last three or four years), but what about the substance of the speech? Using the words of the wise John Kerry, I wish Bush would face reality.

Bush started with two of his favorite subjects: the war against terror and the war against Iraq. His glossy words and unabashed praise for the actions that his administration have taken in this area almost make one believe that the numerous standing ovations Bush received from those to the right of the aisle were deserved. Almost.

We cannot forget Bush's words in his last State of the Union address. A year ago, he could hardly contain himself as he talked of Iraq's massive supply of biological and chemical weapons and their presumed nuclear weapon program that was on the verge of being started, had already been started, or was near completion. Then, the message was that if we did not act right away, Iraq might just blow us away with their military might. After all, they were an imminent threat to the United States. Today, almost all of those allegations have been discredited and those infamous weapons of mass destruction have yet to be found. Bush does plan on going to the moon soon, so who knows? Maybe we'll find those elusive weapons after all.

It may be true that no one regrets that Saddam Hussein is no longer in power, but Bush failed to address many of the huge problems associated with our occupation of Iraq. First of all, because of the go-it-alone foreign policy that the administration adopted, many of our closest allies no longer stand by our side. As Senator Tom Daschle said in the Democratic response to the address, "When America is secure at home and our strength abroad is respected and not resented, only then will we have a union as strong as the American people." The President, meanwhile, thinks that we should not have to ask for a permission slip from other countries. That's exactly the kind of thinking that has made so many other countries hate ours.

Secondly, the dynamic in Iraq itself is anything but rosy. The Shiite majority has repeat-

edly demonstrated their refusal to listen to the government set up by the U.S. and the Sunni and Kurdish minorities are also fighting for some control in the new government. The bloodshed and killing over there continues with no sign of letting up. The U.S. death toll is already over five hundred with thousands more injured. Bush has finally gone to the U.N. to ask for help in the rebuilding, but after the brash way his administration has dealt with other countries, not much help seems to be on the way.

Lastly, because of the way Washington shifted attention to Iraq, important resources were diverted from fighting terrorists in Afghanistan. The situation there is also plagued with problems, as the central government has little control over the country and the border with

Pakistan is not even close to being secure. We have failed to wipe out the terrorists as effectively as we could have, and Osama bin Laden remains free. Sadly, the President offered no solutions to these problems in his speech.

Since most Americans have indicated that they don't care all that much about the war if they're not getting a paycheck, our fearless leader shrewdly paid attention to his polls and allowed time in the address for domestic issues. I almost wish that he had forgotten them. After all, his not doing anything about them would be infinitely better than what he has done and what he plans on doing.

The economy is the single most important issue, especially in an election year. The President's economic policy is severely flawed because it comes down to one single point — huge, unnecessary tax cuts that benefit mostly the wealthy. His absolute insistence on these tax cuts has rendered our country incapable of addressing many of the pressing concerns that plague the daily lives of Americans. Bush tried to sell the illusion that his tax cuts have helped this economy and even asked Congress to make them permanent.

Consider that Bush is the first president since Herbert Hoover during the Great Depression to have experienced a net loss of jobs during his watch. In order to compensate for that loss, the economy needs to create 250,000 new jobs every month until the next inauguration, and this administration has made that its goal. One thousand jobs were created last month. That's not terrible if you don't think about how they only fell 249,000 short. Though Bush desperately tries to convince the country that the economy is healthy, Americans are simply not finding jobs. Sure,

Wall Streeters are surviving now that the stock market has taken a turn for the better, but the average American is still suffering from the President's economic policies. Worst of all, Bush made it clear that he's not willing to change his strategy.

The special interests and extreme right wingers, if they had not been made giddy enough by Bush's spiel on the economy, had to have been beside themselves after the President addressed other domestic issues. Bush does not want the government to run the health care system, even though many industrialized countries have universal health care and the government usually plays a large role.

On the issue of same-sex marriage, Bush disappointingly, but predictably indicated his support of a Constitutional amendment to ban such marriages.

Since when is it appropriate to pass an amendment to not allow citizens of this country to enjoy basic rights? Constitutional amendments, in the past, have been used to expand our rights, such as allowing women, non-whites, and teenagers vote, and ensuring our freedom to say and write whatever we want without government restriction.

Speaking of Constitutional amendments, Bush seems to have forgotten about the very first one, which contains a vital part of the foundation of our country: freedom of religion. The Establishment Clause bans the government from establishing or endorsing religion, yet the President, once again, pushed for his plan to allow federal funding for faith-based charities. He said that the law should not discriminate against such charities. But discriminating against homosexuals is okay?

Curiously, Bush gave time to an issue like drug use and steroids in sports. Though not insignificant, it certainly should not have gotten more time than something as crucial as he environment. But then again, what could the President possibly say about his environmental policies that would shed a positive light on them?

Undoubtedly, this year's State of the Union address was also a stump speech of sorts for the President, with an election in the near future. After hearing Bush lay out his blueprint for his campaign, I can only hope that Americans will realize that there are many better options out there, and that next year, the state of our union can truly be as strong as the President tried to make it seem if the man giving the speech is different.

Using the words of the wise John Kerry, I wish Bush would face reality.

Procrastination: Friend or Foe?

W. Victoria Lee

Since I was young, I have been frequently told to never wait until the last minute. Be it finishing my math assignment, writing an English essay, or studying for an exam, I was supposed to start early and complete my task on time. But as many of you who read this will agree, punctuality is far more easily said than done, so often I find myself succumbing to the temptation of procrastination.

Whenever I promise myself to start a task, the mischievous sprites of the great evil that is procrastination will appear in front of me in the forms of a special television program, a fabulous movie, or a hard-to-refuse outing. The immediate result is instant gratification — after all, doing problem sets is not among my favorite things. The continuing aftermath of procrastination can range from losing sleep by pulling an all-nighter to completely bombing a very important exam. Good students don't cross paths with the procrastination fiend and therefore view a deadline as a chance to triumphantly look back at their completed work. But for someone like me who constantly hangs out with the devil, deadlines have always been more akin to doomsday.

So if procrastination is so hazardous both to academics and to health, why don't I — and perhaps many others out there — quit the abominable habit? Like many

addictive drugs that people smoke, sniff, or inject, procrastination, once taken in, seeps deep down into your vein and dwells there stubbornly. It is true that the habit is difficult to quit, but there are many more reasons why one can happily coexist with such a monster.

Many credit procrastination as their source of inspiration. Having ample time to complete an assignment will not do the task justice. Ingenious solutions to difficult math

problems refuse to reveal themselves unless the mind is drenched with adrenaline; creative phrases will not flow together harmoniously in an essay unless precious time is rapidly ticking away. Pressure caused

by procrastination seems to be the best remedy to a writer's block, an absent mind, and a rusty brain. A pending deadline just seems to make the creative juice flow more rigorously. But stress is not always one's best collaborator in matters concerning the old noodle. For some, a pressure gauge cranked up too high can seriously short circuit the wires of thought and result catastrophically in poor work and performance. But this is when the multifaceted great evil of procrastination strikes again.

How many times have you heard, I couldn't do it better because I didn't have enough time? Most likely, the person has had enough time to complete the task but failed to allocate just the right amount to procrastination and to the actual completion of the task. You see, living with the devil is tricky. He walks around advertising himself

as a great way to enjoy your life while still being able to complete your work with satisfactory quality. What he doesn't tell you when you make a pact with him is that you have to judge for yourself how much of his sweet drug you can afford. It takes years of practice before one can master the skill. A faulty judgment can lead to an overdose and a poorly done product.

Those lucky ones who have figured out a way to peacefully coexist with procrastination, on the other hand, can flaunt their success with an "I only started this yesterday" and enhance their spectacular exam grade with an "I only studied for one hour." In this case, procrastination seems to elevate a good outcome to a level of superiority. A job well done is not only laudable because of the procrastinator's ingenuity, but also because of his ability to complete the task in a short amount of time.

Finally, some will argue that procrastination is merely a bad name given to time management. The wise ones use it to their advantage. They manage to watch the game and gauge enough time and pressure for their essay that is due the next day. Then there are the less skillful ones who misuse it to their disadvantage. They take on too much procrastination before they find out their tolerance. Like many others, I often fell victim to the great devil. But the tie between procrastination and its victims is hard to break, as most students are well aware. Take heed, those of you who still think you can turn procrastination from foe to friend. Dealing with the fiend is tricky. You'll never know if he will help you do more or less with your time. The safest way is to collar the old devil, and never do tomorrow what you can do today.

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ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★★★★

*'The Triplets of Belleville': Tres Chic, Tres Cuckoo**Caricatures Collide in Gently Zany Animated French Film*

By Fred Choi

STAFF WRITER

The Triplets of Belleville

Written and Directed by Sylvain Chomet

Starring the voices of Michèle Caucheteux,

Jean-Claude Donda, Michel Robin, Monica

Viegas

Rated PG-13

Although the French animated film "The Triplets of Belleville" is not as mind-blowingly unique as some reviewers have gushed, there is no doubt that it is one of the best animated film to come along in years. Whereas Disney and Pixar and their imitators have made an industry of formulaic films crammed with cookie-cutter characters, one-line throw-aways, and a wearisome deluge of references to pop culture and other films, the humor of "The Triplets" is more thoughtful,

universal, and timeless. Like the Wallace and Gromit shorts, Triplets combines heady doses of absurdity and farce, thoroughly leavened with a natural and charming whimsy.

The film unfolds as gently as a Jacques Tati film but builds to runaway train momentum. The somewhat twisty plot — but not overly so, as evidenced by the conspicuous lack of subtitles even though only a few lines of the dialogue have been dubbed into English — concerns a grandmother on a quest to find her grandson, a Tour de France cyclist who has been kidnapped by the French Mafia for reasons unknown. Along the way she's aided by her faithful dog Bruno through bizarre and surreal adventures and meets a city full of zany characters including the eponymous triplets.

Sylvain Chomet serves as both writer and director, and his film shows as much inventiveness as Miyazaki's much-praised "Spirited Away."

Chomet's concentration is greater, though, and as a result the smaller scope is ultimately more satisfying. As fine as the pacing, comedic timing, and plot are, however, the film's real triumph is its powerful use of caricature. The grand-



SONY PICTURES

Sylvain Chomet's "Triplets of Belleville" has charmed audiences on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

mother blinks like a fish and clumps along steadily and determinedly in her orthopedic shoes; the man-size dog runs around on spindly stick legs; her grandson sports an elephantine proboscis; the Mafia's impassive bodyguards hunch their boxy, menacing shoulders; and in one of the best caricatures of the whole movie a maitre d' literally bends over backwards to fawn over his patrons. Likewise, the film's mostly rough, unfinished look recalls early black and white shorts and is refreshing when contrasted with the sterile and slick animation of today's major studios.

To attempt to describe any more of the movie's gags would take away from the giddy fun of the movie, as they must be seen to be truly appreciated. In a just world ruled by quality rather than marketing, "Triplets" would reach the success as that other gently comedic and deserving French hit, "Amelie."

Whether it does or not in this world remains to be seen.

At the Kendall Square and Embassy Cinemas, "The Triplets of Belleville" is preceded by an unlikely and fascinating collaboration, a Walt Disney-Salvador Dali 7-minute short entitled "Destino" that dates back to 1946. Unfinished for more than half a century, the film has finally been completed. It is unfortunate that Dali's instantly recognizable style has in the interim become almost cliché, and as a result the work lacks much of a punch to a modern audience.

The short concentrates on a woman and a man and, as can be expected, the surreal transformations each undergoes. Although the music feels true to the period, the visual style, especially the color palette and the design of the female character, feel conspicuously modern.



SONY PICTURES

"The Triplets of Belleville" is an original and likeable animated film.

CLASSICAL REVIEW

*Gil Shaham, BSO Excel in Berg Concerto**Antonio Pappano Guest Conducts Shostakovich Symphony, Debussy Prelude*

By Andrew Wong

STAFF WRITER

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Antonio Pappano, conductor

Gil Shaham, violin

Symphony Hall

Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

On Saturday, the BSO, led by guest conductor Antonio Pappano, performed an intense program of Debussy's "Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun," Alban Berg's "Violin Concerto" and Shostakovich's "Symphony No. 10." The opening piece by Debussy lit up the room with gorgeous solos by flutist Elizabeth Ostling, the orchestra's acting principal.

The piece's need for a smaller orchestra fit well inside Symphony Hall's rectangular, acoustically superior design. Harp sections, as well as subtleties in string tremolos, blended together flawlessly. Pappano put great effort in not letting any of the musical coloring fade away and also led an exceptionally well-played second theme. Despite that this work is an over-played staple of the orchestra repertoire, the BSO did wonderfully in keeping the

piece fresh and enjoyable.

Violin virtuoso Gil Shaham soloed in Berg's concerto, bringing his usual cheery humble presence to the stage. Shaham won the hearts of the audience with his expressiveness and body language, as well as a superb control of one of the most challenging violin concertos of the twentieth century. A few times the orchestra drowned out the soloist's intricate passages, but Pappano's sensitivities to Shaham's passages helped maintain a definite chamber quality to the piece.

The opening four notes on open strings played by Shaham carried a reserved but assertive tone. As the movement developed, the solo violin opened up, slowly unsheathing a more emotional rendition of Berg's twelve-tone milestone.

Written for the death of Manon Gropius, the daughter of architect Walter Gropius, the concerto is set in two movements, the first a celebration of the teenager's life, and the second a violent depiction of death. Shaham burst into the raucous passages of the second movement with great fervor, thrusting his entire body into his instrument.

The subsequent cadenza proved why the Grammy award-winning violinist has had so much international success in the past ten years. Following the entrance of the orchestra, a somber, reflective duet between the violin and bassoon introduced the Bach chorale that Berg placed so carefully in the second movement. The wind section followed with a peaceful restatement of the chorale bringing calm to the atonal storm.

Antonio Pappano, the music director of the Royal Opera House has had great success in operas such as "Tristan und Isolde" and "Siegfried," but somehow the task of conducting Shostakovich's most carefully written symphony fell short. For most of the third and fourth movements, a less-than-enthusiastic string section ground out mechanical repetitions of D-S-C-H (Shostakovich's four-note signature).

The Allegro lacked the fiery urgency required by the opening bars, with the snare overpowering most of the orchestra, and the bass section led a sloppy accompaniment of the syncopated sections. The wind section, as well as a strong percussion lineup, seemed to pick up some of the slack in the fourth move-



BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Gil Shaham was the featured soloist in Alban Berg's "Violin Concerto" with the Boston Symphony Orchestra last week.

ment, however. In the final bars, Pappano managed to create enough energy to finish strongly, despite the weakness of the earlier movements.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Three Cheers for Three Doors Down?

Despite Solid Performance, Show Lacked That Extra Something

By Pey-Hua Hwang
STAFF WRITER

Three Doors Down, with Shinedown and Tantric
Orpheum Theater
Jan. 20, 8 p.m.

Three Doors Down headlined a solid rock concert at the Orpheum Theater on a frigid Tuesday night last week. The theater was decorated with pastoral scenes of ladies and gentlemen in Victorian style dresses and waistcoats. It was a wonderful juxtaposition to the rows of speakers, flashing lights, and rawness of the music that would be delivered on the stage.

The first opening band was Shinedown. They dressed like a heavy metal band, but had a fairly good range in song style. Despite problems with their sound equipment, they managed to deliver an energetic and surprisingly articulate performance.

The highlights of the set were "Stranger Inside," a cover of the Lynyrd Skynyrd song, "Simple Man," "45," and "Left Out," which left the crowd standing. Lead singer, Brent Smith has a solid stage presence and an operatic a cappella voice, like the lead singer of Evanescence, only three octaves lower. While trying to find a "working" microphone, he told the crowd that there were "ghosts" in the system. Unfortunately, the rest of the band seemed less memorable. True coherence on stage takes experience and further touring should provide that for Shinedown.

The second opening band was Tantric. In contrast to Shinedown, whose music was overburdened with angst, Tantric was more mellow and almost jazz-like. There were some very nice vocal harmonies between the lead singer and the guitarists. However, the lead singer sometimes seemed more concerned with working the crowd and

cheering on the Patriots than in his actual music.

Highlights from their set were "Chasin' After," a song from the album they will be releasing in February, "Mourning," which actually had people singing along, and "Hey Now," the last song of their set which nicely mixed quiet interludes and headbanging beats.

At 9:30 p.m., Three Doors Down took the stage. For their set, the flashing lights, the fog machines, and the sound system magic really kicked in. The songs were well delivered, but somehow uninspired. On stage, bands should bring something extra to the songs that isn't on the CD. Three Doors Down lacked that little bit of extra. I kept waiting for an acoustic version of a song or an amazing jam session, but neither appeared on the menu.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Three Doors Down guitarist Matt Roberts jams in 'By My Side' last Tuesday evening at the Orpheum Theatre in Boston.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Three Doors Down lead singer Brad Arnold (right) and bassist Todd Harrell perform 'Duck and Run' from their debut album "Better Life."

They opened with one of my personal favorite

songs "Duck and Run" and ran through all of their singles as well as a few lesser known songs and a cover of "That Smell" by Lynyrd Skynyrd. One pleasant surprise, though, was a long drum solo featuring drummer Daniel Adair. His beats were dead on and as much as rock and roll drummers play for flair, he still had complete control.

The title track of their new CD, "Away from the Sun," which lead singer Brad Arnold declared as his "favorite song," was also quite beautiful. Arnold then asked, "My friends, will you sing a song with us tonight?"

The crowd sang along to three songs loudly enough to overpower the massive speaker system: "Kryptonite," "Be Like That," and "Here Without You."

The song "Changes" had a quiet eerie feel that would have been cool had the audience not decided to clap along and ruin a perfectly good ending to the set before the encore. On a side note, concertgoers should know that a show is never over without at least one encore if not two. You know the show is over when all the guitar picks have been pulled out of mike stands and tossed to the crowd.

Over all, the Three Doors Down concert was good entertainment, but the Orpheum Theater is really not the best venue for watching a concert. It was too big for the intimacy of a club concert and too small for the really amazing acoustic power of a concert hall like the Tweeter Center.

One of the benefits of going to a live concert is discovering new up and coming bands and this concert fit the bill for that; however, having to undergo the hassle of the ridiculous amount of security to get in the door and out of the cold was nearly enough to kill the concert-going spirit. In the future, if I want to listen to Three Doors Down, I'll listen to the CD or wait until they play a nice small club.

INTERVIEW

Will Fame Shine Down on Them?

Opening Band for Three Doors Down Awaits the Big Time

By Pey-Hua Hwang
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes when you interview a band, you interview a group of people that are all first and foremost musicians. They dropped out of high school or they only made it halfway through college or they went to Julliard and then decided classical music wasn't for them. However, Shine-

down is an exception to the rule.

Two of their band members are actually scientists by training. And you thought that scientists didn't know how to rock and roll. The drummer, Barry Kerch, majored in Anthropology and and bassist, Brad Stewart, majored in Biology and worked as a chemist for Bacardi Rum before becoming the bassist of Shinedown. It's almost like that old

McDonald's ad, "Hey, it could happen," and for Shinedown it has.

They met up with Three Doors Down through their record manager, were given a two-week tour test run and have been on the tour since. They were "inducted," so to speak. I spoke to Kerch about



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Shinedown drummer Barry Kerch beats out some mad licks in 'Crying Out' last Tuesday night.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Shinedown lead singer Brent Smith and guitarist Jasin Todd play 'No More Love' last Tuesday evening at the Orpheum Theatre in Boston. Shinedown opened for Three Doors Down.

the rigors of being on the road as a new band. "Touring is tough," he said. "It's an expensive habit."

Since giving a performance is costly to rent the venue, transport the equipment, and pay the headlining band, small bands end up on the short end of the stick. For example, on tours like Ozzfest, bands often have to "pay or play for free." The exchange is that the smaller bands get publicity and exposure to possible future fan base. Touring, however, has definitely allowed the band members to bond. "We became a family very fast ... even when shit is breaking all over the place we're still out there smiling and having a good time," he said.

When asked about which songs on their album the various band members like the best, Kerch men-

tioned that he personally liked "Better Version" the best because it had a "little more soul," and he was trained in funk and jazz. He said that the lead would like all of the songs best because he wrote them all, the bassist liked "Left Out," because it was heavier in sound and their guitarist preferred "No More Love."

Kerch was also very frank about the business side of the music industry. "You can talk about doing it for the music all you like, but in that case you might as well be a starving jazz musician ... If you want to be able to make a living then you have to write a big pop song," he said.

However, Kerch believes that even if Shinedown doesn't become a household name that all of the band members would still keep in touch. With savvy in both music and economics, Shinedown certainly has a shot at the big time. I wish them luck, and after all, maybe someday there will be a band of engineers.

FEATURES

Death By Zeitgeist: My LeaderShape Reformation

By Devdoot Majumdar
STAFF WRITER

I'm not a very good person. Nor a very nice person, for that matter. Over the years, I've grown both self-infatuated and overly dismissive of people, primarily you, the average MIT student. There's always something off about most of you — you're emotionally needy, you're socially inept, you're immodestly arrogant; so it goes. But I suppose that when I began idolizing Simon Cowell, it stunted my growth as a person. On a happier note, though few of you will be useful as future Rolodex references, there are definitely times when I find something amorphaously redeemable about most MIT kids.

It was in this grumpy spirit that I went last week to an MIT-sponsored program called LeaderShape, a six-day leadership camp out in Sharon, Massachusetts. In a freshmen-heavy group of sixty kids, I decided that I'd either remain aloof or be myself. As I gave up being saccharine at the end of my sophomore year, I wasn't all that interested in practicing my technique at 8.01 small talk. And furthermore, as I saw it, most of the kids going to LeaderShape would inevitably be the type that sits and waits for the chirping to begin before

crossing Massachusetts Ave.

Before I get too far ahead of myself, I was wrong. I will openly admit that roughly half of my opinions actually have any sort of factual backing. The rest are simply intellectual ejaculations in hopes of provoking conversation. Without fail, I offended a good third of the kids at LeaderShape as a result, but the other two-thirds at least pretended to like me, at some level. And I think I liked them too, at some level.

An anonymous source high up in the administration warned me in an e-mail this morning not to give away many of the details of the program. On paper, LeaderShape is your standard "be a good person" program. In person, it's more of a social experiment that works like Sartre's "No Exit," but in a good way. In "No Exit," you find three people who have just died and are stuck in a room together for eternity (their own personal hell). In LeaderShape, you find sixty kids stuck in a Salvation Army conference center who manage to let down their defenses, tone down the self-consciousness, and play mafia for six days.

And though I didn't grow as a leader, the program made me grow as a person. For the

sake of those who write letters to *The Tech* complaining about my internecine remarks, I'd like to lay on the sappiness in the next several paragraphs. I'm still confident I'll be able to offend someone.

I'm going to go out on a limb here and talk about religion. I don't enjoy riding on the T and being asked to sell my soul to L. Ron Hubbard. My soul belongs to Ganesha, as far as you're concerned, even if the Native Americans saw Jesus too. So, I always approach devoutly religious people with a grain of salt because I'm afraid of meandering into pleasant conversation only to be thrilled with the prospect of being proselytized. If I'm being ignorant, it's only because of years of being a heathenous pagan.

Anyhow, to keep the tirade short, I mentioned that I was going to hell a few times throughout LeaderShape. And so I ended up having a nice conscientious discussion about religion; so much so that I wouldn't mind figuring out why so few Christians know anything about Deuteronomy. That's reason number one as for why I'm a better person.

The second reason I'm a better person has to do with frat boys. I probably met more of them in six days than I had in four years. And

they're not so bad. I always had the frats separated into first, second, third, and forgettable tiers. But LeaderShape taught me that fraternities get their reputation because of the desirability of their brothers. And frankly, if you're looking for an Asian Christian you go one place and if you're looking for a public urinator, you go elsewhere. That doesn't make one better than another, just different. The stratification is purely based on the tastes of the very different demographics of young ladies at MIT. And there's no way I'm going to base my rankings of fraternities based on the questionable taste of the young ladies at MIT. As a result, I'd be happy to tell any of you freshmen what precisely makes any given fraternity "special," but now they're all "special."

Finally, reason number three as to why I'm a better person is that I grew a sense of repentance. The phrase "I'm sorry" was certainly not in short supply at Leadershape as I apologized to Christians, McCormick girls, and frat boys alike.

They say that the more you use "sorry," the cheaper it gets. I find I can only be unrepentant when I don't care about the people who get offended — it's usually their fault anyhow. At LeaderShape, I grew a conscience and began to understand true remorse, at some level.

After LeaderShape, I came home to find my friends ridiculing my positive attitude. I really had no defense for becoming a more positive person, so I called them insecure and slowly became my former self. *If you have beef, send me an e-mail at devdoot@mit.edu.*

Chinese New Year In Kresge



—THE TECH

(above) Dancers from the Yunnan Provincial Opera and Dance Theater of China perform in front of a sign bidding the audience a happy new year at the Chinese Students and Scholars Association's 2004 Chinese New Year Celebration.

(right) Zhonghua Liu balances Tao Yu and Yaoyao Qian at the celebration.



—THE TECH

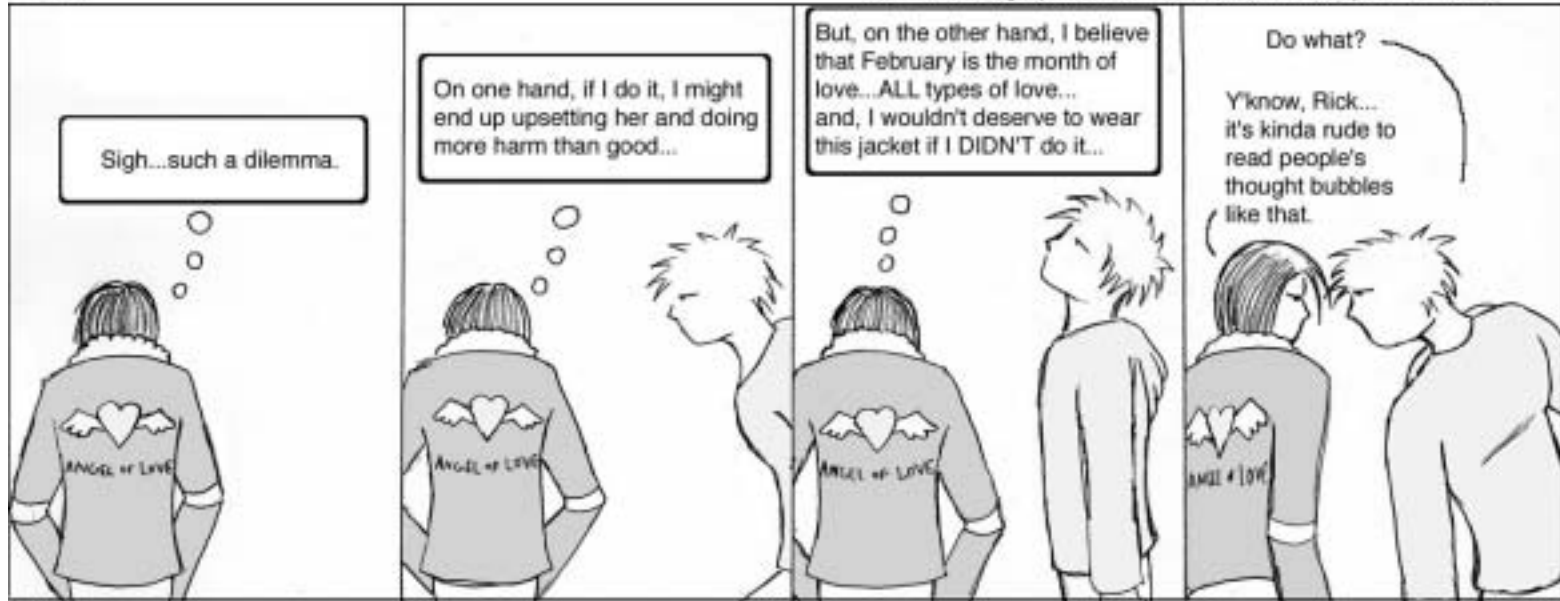


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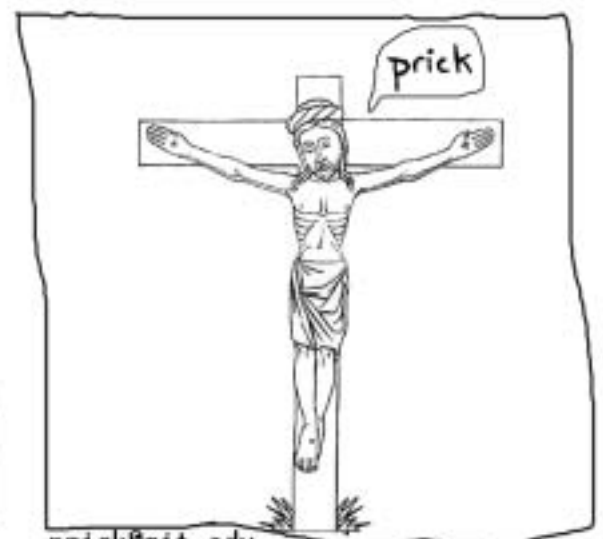
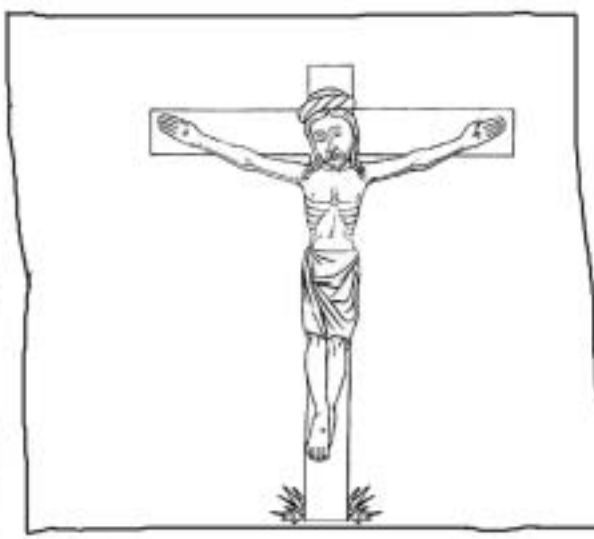
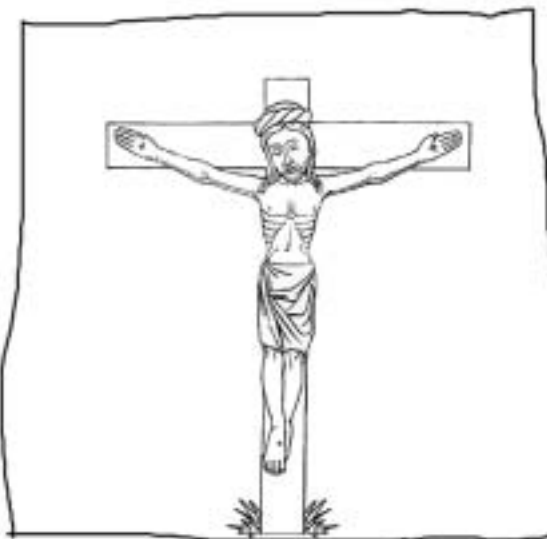
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character biographies: members.aol.com/rickxykes/welcome



It worked for Fiddy

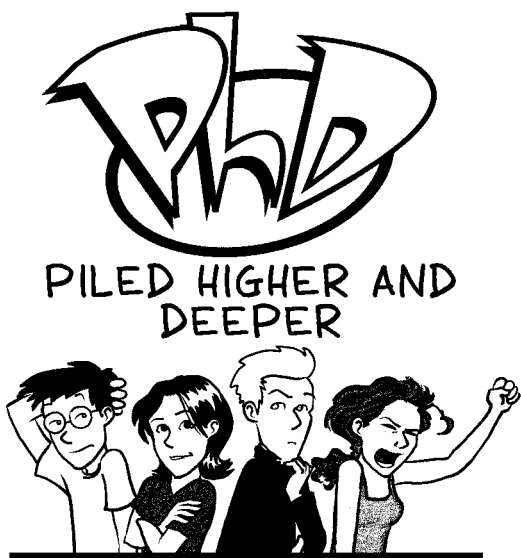


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Fascist Popsicle Stand

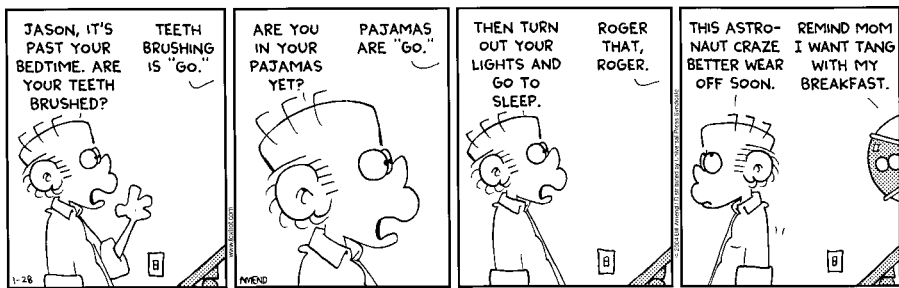
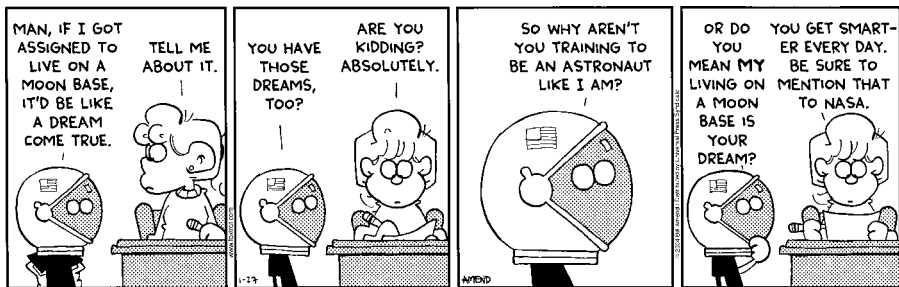
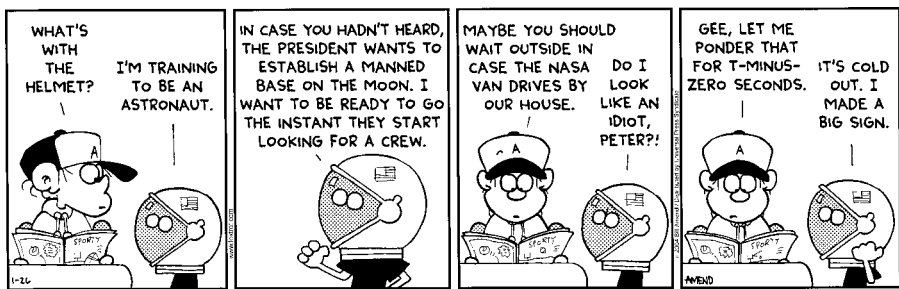
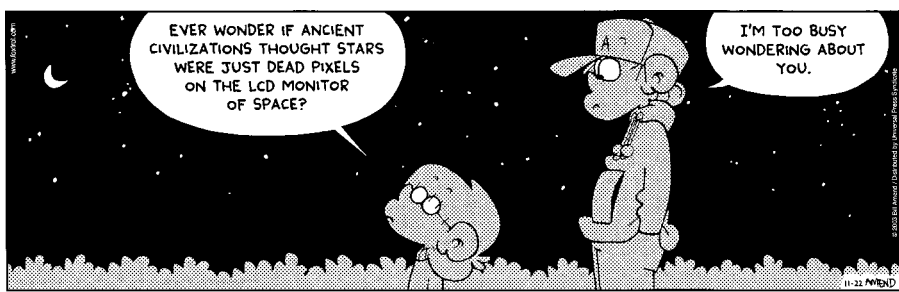
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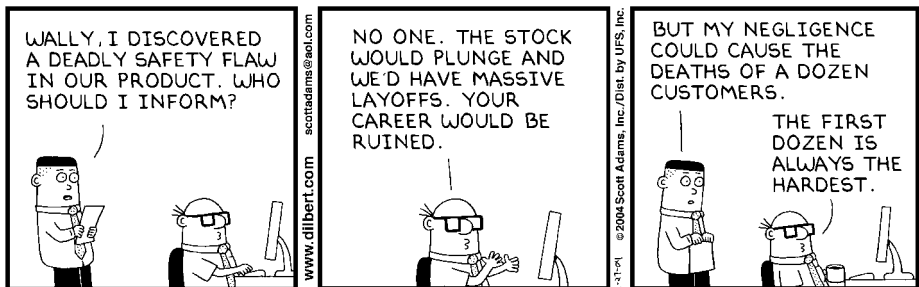
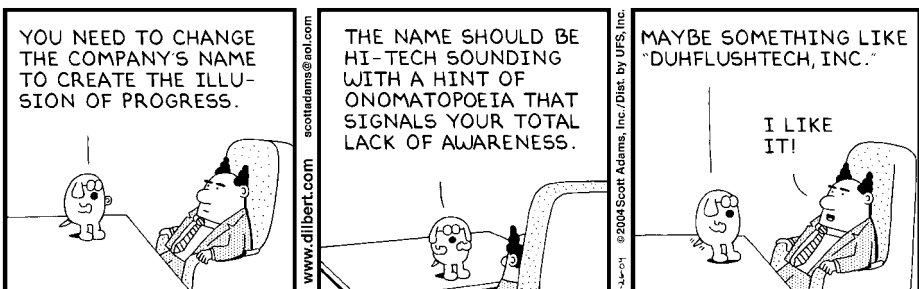
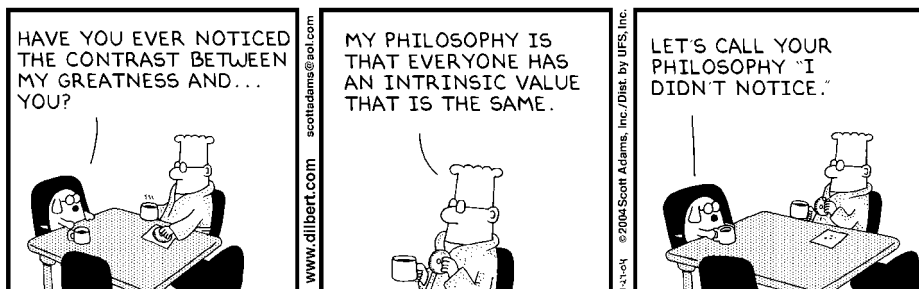


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FoxTrot by Bill Amend



Dilbert by Scott Adams



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 20

- ACROSS**
- 1 British baby buggies
 - 6 Mamie Eisenhower's maiden name
 - 10 Hollow tooth
 - 14 Syrupy drink
 - 15 Actress Falco
 - 16 Once again
 - 17 Bart or Belle
 - 18 Gangster's gal
 - 19 Had on
 - 20 Taped/not taped
 - 23 Hungarian
 - 26 Nice summer
 - 27 Lair
 - 28 Penny picture?
 - 29 Circumspect
 - 33 Chips off the old block
 - 35 WWII zone
 - 36 "West Side Story" song
 - 40 Is here/not here
- DOWN**
- 1 Brief sleepwear
 - 2 Boring routine
 - 3 In the manner of
 - 4 Joyful
 - 5 Distribute widely
 - 6 Performer's promo
 - 7 Fragrance
 - 8 "Our Town" playwright
 - 9 Take out
 - 10 Birds
 - 11 Steer clear of
 - 12 Chutzpah
 - 13 Masters jacket color
 - 21 Wept
 - 22 Judges
 - 23 Marina poles
 - 24 Circa
 - 25 Art grouping
 - 30 R-V connection
 - 31 Perseveres
 - 32 Pravda source
 - 34 Lose one's cool
- ACROSS**
- 44 Stand one in good
 - 45 Mighty long stretch
 - 46 "South Park" kid
 - 47 Intercepts, as a pass
 - 51 WSW opposite
 - 52 Snoop
 - 55 Front of a shoe
 - 56 Egyptian pharaoh
 - 58 Bear down on/stop bearing down on
 - 62 Citrus fruit
 - 63 Fiery birthstone
 - 64 Busch Gardens city
 - 68 Notion
 - 69 ___ the time
 - 70 Inventor Howe
 - 71 Revivalist's workplace
 - 72 Actress Paquin
 - 73 Nolan and Meg
- DOWN**
- 37 Ceremonies
 - 38 Silly
 - 39 Choreographer DeMille
 - 41 Makes a long story short?
 - 42 Comment from Bossy
 - 43 Structure starter?
 - 48 Aureole
 - 49 Continue
 - 50 In less time
 - 52 Divide
 - 53 Lion clan
 - 54 Oman's neighbor
 - 57 Granular
 - 59 Part of a chair
 - 60 Grassy expanse
 - 61 "Lohengrin" lady
 - 65 Actress Farrow
 - 66 Kitchen utensil
 - 67 Buffoon

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68					69					70			
71					72					73			

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Solution to Crossword
from page 12

P	R	A	M	S	D	O	W	D	F	A	N	G
J	U	L	E	P	E	D	I	E	O	V	E	R
S	T	A	R	R	M	O	L	L	W	O	R	E
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S	O	N	S	E	T	O		M	A	R	I	A
T	U	R	N	E	D	U	P	M	I	S	S	I
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January 30, 2004

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Stata Budget Capped at \$285M

Stata, from Page 1

Networking incomplete

One of the parts still incomplete in the Stata Center is the networking for floors two through nine.

Garrett A. Wollman of CSAIL said he is unhappy with the project management team, which includes representatives of the construction companies and MIT, including Terman of CSAIL and Silverman of the facilities department.

"This has gone a lot more slowly than I would like," he said. "We had a lot of issues."

"Everyone on our end knew

from the beginning that there was not a chance we could be done in January, certainly since September," he said.

One of the issues, Wollman said, was that networking needed closets to store equipment, but this request was not satisfied by the management team. "It's been really ridiculous how little technology input has been taken," he said.

Regarding the plans for the networking to be done in time for the March move, Wollman said "I think we can make it happen if they hold up their end."

Silverman said that the request

for closets could not have been satisfied because the closets were requested after the design of the building was determined, and no compromises could be made to the design at that stage in construction.

Budget is capped at \$285 million

Silverman said he is confident that the cost for constructing the Stata center will remain at \$285 million. "We've been working with the provost, and the costs are pretty much contained," he said.

He said that it was highly unlikely there would be substantial further costs.

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REFRESHMENTS

CAMPUS INTERVIEWS:

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

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Upgrades Planned In Dorms

Upgrades, from Page 1

three dormitories to be upgraded in the coming year, but said it is too early to say.

"Housing is currently reviewing residential halls with IS&T for buildings with the most need and in particular is currently looking at Burton, New and Next House," Nilsson said. "We review these particular buildings in terms of level of service they currently have, substantiality and cost."

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Too Few Staff Slows Publication, Editing

Prometheus, from Page 1

down as editor in chief. When Diduch stepped down, the paper disbanded since "there was no one to take over," she said.

Paper falls short on time, people

"I was taking on too much responsibility for the time or experience I had," Diduch said.

The paper's founder, Scott D. Schneider '00, said that the newspaper fell apart because it "didn't have a big enough staff." They "didn't do a great job recruiting at the beginning of the year," he said.

Diduch estimated that, per issue, 12 to 15 people put in significant effort. However, she said the key problem was that Prometheus tends "to have a smaller number of longer articles which involves a lot of editing."

"I really wish more people would have come to meetings and been involved," Diduch commented, "but I don't think it would have helped given the size of the publication." The members "continued to be excited" but just didn't have enough time, she added.

Schneider said that though around 15 to 20 people signed up for the mailing list at the Activities Midway in the 2003 Freshman Orientation, they "didn't do enough to follow up."

Diduch thought that Prometheus did not attract many new members at the Activities Midway because they were not established enough as a group. "The freshmen never really responded or came to meetings," she said.

Christine R. Fry '05, the outgoing editor in chief of *The Tech*, said she did not think The Tech's staff-sharing rule, which forbids Tech staff members from also working for "a competing publication," should be blamed for *Prometheus*' collapse.

"It's a person's choice who they write for, and we can't help if they choose one or another," she said.

Fry said that *Prometheus* members would be welcome at *The Tech*. "We'd love to have staffers who are interested in in-depth analysis," she said.

Sheeva Azma '05, a former staffer, said she "thought it was really good and worked really well," but quit because she "just didn't have time to work on it."

ASA requires viability, uniqueness

Prometheus had been trying since March to obtain ASA recognition, which can give funding, an Athena locker, the ability to reserve rooms on campus, and other privileges. The ASA had initially accepted the April publication of Prometheus as proof of the group's viability, which is required for recognition.

Kathryn M. Walter '05, the ASA president, said the ASA has received a lot of requests for new publications, but the ASA has not granted recognition to them because the potential publications could be sponsored by currently-existing student groups with similar focuses. One of the requirements listed on the ASA Web site is that recognized groups do not "overlap with any existing groups on campus."



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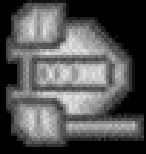
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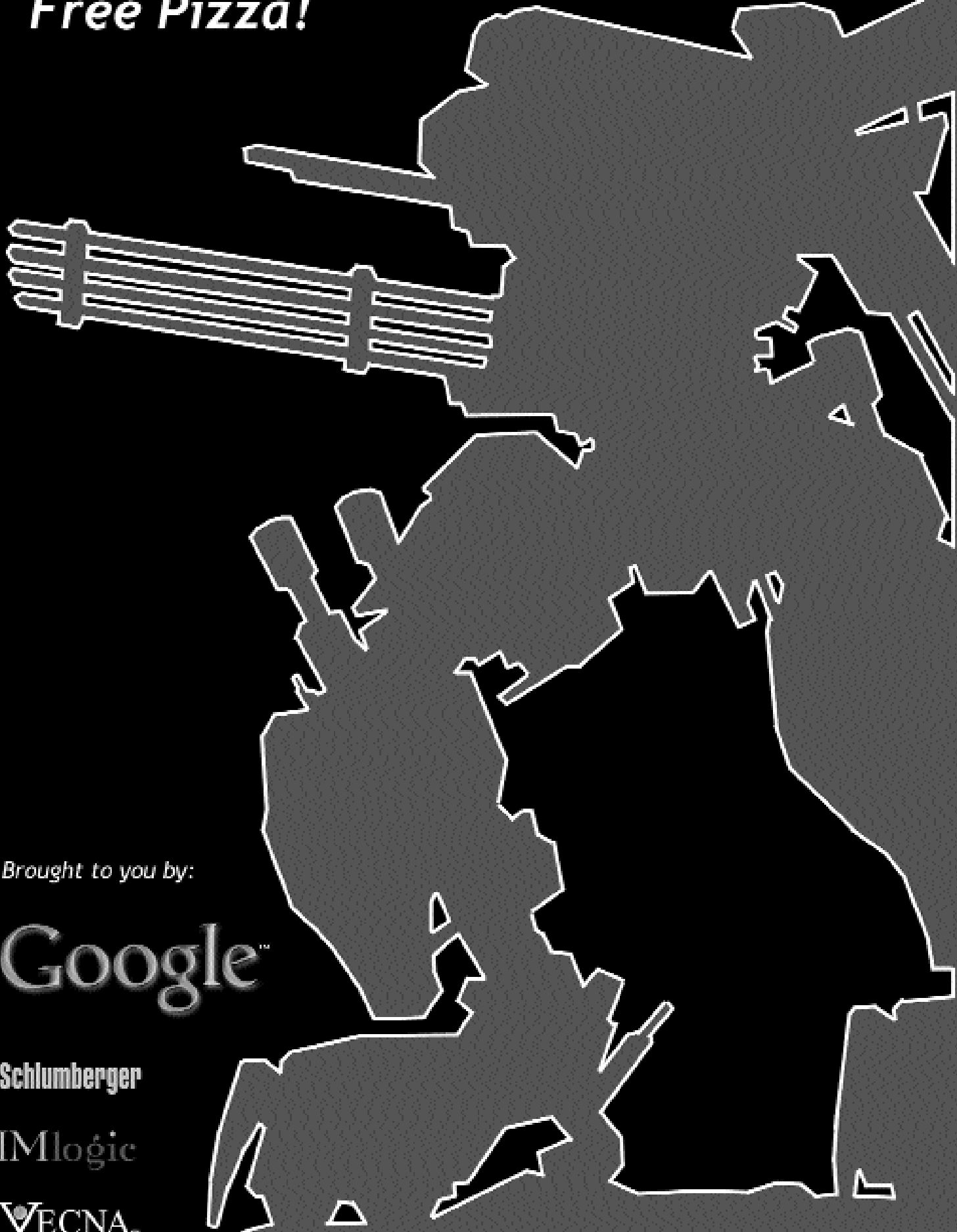
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Projects to Track Sailboats, Display News and More

iCampus, from Page 1

package, bring the PDA," he said.

"There'd be a camera on the PDA and they'd take a picture, it'd send it to the FrontDesk system," Kay said. "Next time I log in, it'd be on my Web site, with the picture."

The FrontDesk team selected PDAs and tablet PCs as the hardware for desk workers, Kay said.

"It's very unlikely that a FrontDesk worker would like to bring around a laptop or bring things around to a desktop," Kay said. FrontDesk will also use wireless networking so desk workers will not have to plug their devices in to update the database.

The system will also use radio frequency ID readers. "We definitely want to use RFIDs for inventory control and equipment like ping-pong paddles, pool cues, and stuff like that," Kay said. "It's also for usability because you could just pass it through a scanner rather than entering it like, 'This is ping-pong paddle number five.'"

DomeView to post campus news

DomeView will post display screens around the Institute, showing campus news from student groups, its proposal says. In addition, the display screens are to have wireless networking support so that students can download schedules and news onto compatible cell phones and handheld computers.

"DomeView is an idea I came up with freshmen year to facilitate communication on campus between student groups and the student body at large," said Harel M. Williams '05, the principal investigator.

"I've been looking at the commu-

nication problem the UA has been having with the student body and I imagine other student groups have the same problem," said Williams, who chairs the Undergraduate Association's Committee on Student Life.

Members of the executive boards of the UA, the Association of Student Activities, and the Graduate Student Council make up the DomeView team, according to Williams's proposal.

"As these organizations effectively represent every student on campus, we are aware of the significant need for communication within the MIT community at large, that extends beyond verbal invitations, e-mail, and poster boards," the proposal said.

The DomeView team is currently researching the easiest interface for student groups to post their data, the best type of display to use, and the best locations for displays, Williams said.

The team plans to have about 12 displays across campus, Williams said, and eventually closer to 30 or 40.

"The amount received from iCampus isn't going to provide for that, so we'll be looking for additional sources when the time comes."

"We hope to do a lot of coding and implementation over the summer," Williams said. "Next semester we hope to implement it on campus and revise it based on feedback from students."

River Rat tests sensor technology

In 2002, iCampus gave \$30,000 to the ShuttleTrack project, which put Global Positioning System receivers and radio transmitters on SafeRide shuttles, and let students

monitor their locations at <http://shuttletrack.mit.edu>.

This year, iCampus has funded the River Rat project, which proposes to do roughly the same thing with MIT's fleet of sailboats.

"What we want to accomplish is to be able to track sailboats racing on the Charles River, and being able to do this with high enough accuracy that the information that we gather can be used by coaches of the different sailing teams for review after the race," said Claudio Cairoli G, the principal investigator for River Rat.

"We can provide spectators a different view of the race itself," Cairoli said. "We'd like to be able to offer a top view of the race, which can make it a lot more clear which boat is in front."

Beyond the initial application in sailboats, the network of sensor packages will also have applications in horse race-tracking, NASCAR, and ocean sensors, said team member Robert S. Damus '99.

MMITT has interactive molecules

The Molecular Mechanics Interactive Teaching Tool team plans to

build a molecular model kit that feeds information into a computer.

Under the plan, students will be able to build molecules by hand, but see the results on a computer screen.

"I do computational biochemistry, so I have wanted to use one of these ever since I started," said Brian Woody H. Sherman G, the principal investigator. "I see the value in what this could bring to the teaching community and the research community," he said.

The MMITT team is researching sensor technology to develop a way to detect atom positioning with sensors in the models, he said. "We've talked to a lot of people in Media Lab and AI and people who have worked on robotics projects," Sherman said. "Much of our research has been through the MIT community with people who have designed similar robotics instruments."

The team is writing its own software to interact with the sensor-embedded atoms. The software will be able to display the results of molecular simulations, Sherman said. The software will show electrostatics, bonding, molecular

orbital theory, and symmetry-adjusted linear combinations.

The hardware will include the standard balls and sticks. "We plan on being able to incorporate ten and fifty atoms," Sherman said. "We'd like to keep them affordable for student and classroom use," he said.

The project will provide units for student use in class and lab environments, as well as five modules for use in 3.091 (Introduction to Solid-State Chemistry) and 5.12 (Organic Chemistry I), the proposal said.

"The software would be used for lecture purposes, so we'd have modules available for the professor to use during lecture," Sherman said. "In recitation, TAs would be able to use the software to teach concepts."

Additionally, the modules may be available for direct student use. "The 3.091 lab may make the modules available for a student to use on their own time," he said.

In the future, the team may put motors in the atoms to give physical feedback to users, the proposal said.

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MIT Department of FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Building 48

Cleaning of the third and fourth floors is complete and the space is ready for use. Sprinkler and alarm work is substantially complete. Second floor wall framing will begin soon. First and second floor piping, mechanical, and electrical work continues. New exhaust fans and ductwork on the roof have been installed.

Stata Center

Paver installation is proceeding as dictated by weather conditions. Interior work on office partitions and finishes (tile, interior glass, etc.) is underway in the Gates and Dreyfoos towers.

Brain and cognitive sciences project

Steel erection is underway on the seventh and eighth floors. Albany Street between the Albany St. garage and Main Street will remain closed through spring/summer 2004.

Winter Advisory

Please make sure all windows and doors in your building are closed. If you notice an open window or door, please report it to the Department of Facilities: rrmsupport@mit.edu or extension 3-4946.

For more information on MIT's building program, visit web.mit.edu/building. This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

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Further information, including online application:
<http://www.kawamurafellowship.org/>

Applications interface closes at 11:59 PM, February 3

The Morris K. Udall Foundation Scholarship

\$5,000 to undergraduate sophomores and juniors working in fields related to the environment.

http://www.udall.gov/p_scholarship.htm

Applications Due 5:00PM in room 7-133 on February 9

The Beinecke Scholarship

\$32,000 to be used for graduate school support in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

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Eric Thorsen, x3-7364, ethorsen@mit.edu

MIT Early Applications Down 20 Percent This Year

By **Issel Anne L. Lim**
STAFF REPORTER

Early applications for the Class of 2008 decreased by 21 percent from last year, but a surplus of regular applications almost made up the difference.

MIT accepted 438 students out of a pool of about 2,830 early action applicants for 2008, and is currently

examining the 7,585 regular applications, according to the admissions office. Last year, 3,579 students applied to MIT early, with 6,980 regular-time applications.

"The students that applied to MIT early this year were ... almost more 'MIT-type' than we've seen in a long time," said Marilee Jones, the director of admissions. By "MIT-type,"

she said she meant "more technically-focused."

Application boom ends

The number of applicants to MIT leveled off from the boom of years past, a trend Jones says has been seen in many technical schools. Jones said that a loss of faith in dot-com companies has led to a public view that liberal arts colleges are "safe," providing students with more flexibility for future careers. Fewer international students applied this year as well, she said.

Application seeks creativity

How do the members of the Admissions Committee decide whom to accept? Admissions Counselor Amrys O. Williams '02 said that she looks for "directed imagination," "intellectual irreverence," and "things that I valued in friends at MIT that encapsulated what MIT is about."

As an example, one applicant constructed a 40-foot sling and sent a video of his sling hurling pumpkins across a field, she said.

Professor Alexander H. Slocum created an optional question where students had to use one piece of paper to explain or define why they wanted to come to MIT. Many applicants sent in collages and paper cranes, and one sent a page covered in code — which "was pretty hot," Williams said.

Jones said that she relies heavily on recommendations from faculty members and how students interacted with them. "MIT affiliates are really good about this compared with other schools," she said. "They always tell the truth."

"When I hear something from a faculty member that so-and-so's really good, then I'd listen," she said. "You don't see it very often. Faculty

members are pretty tough."

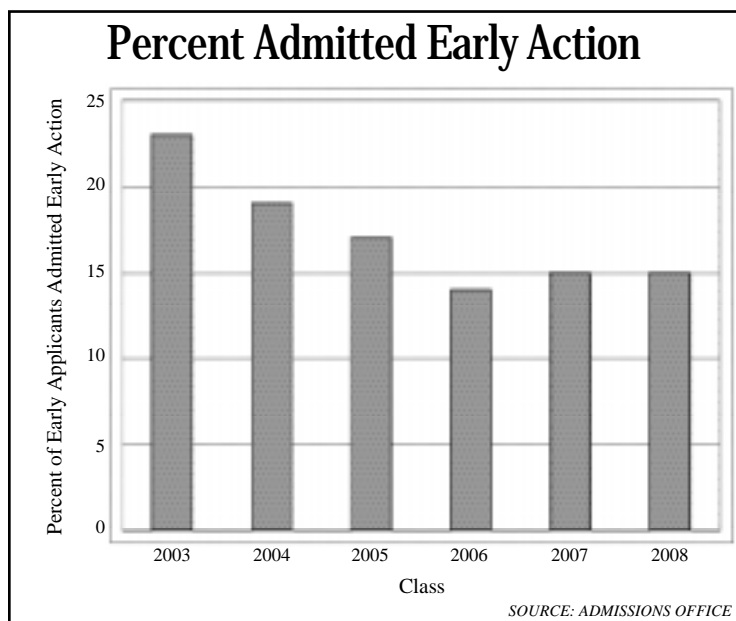
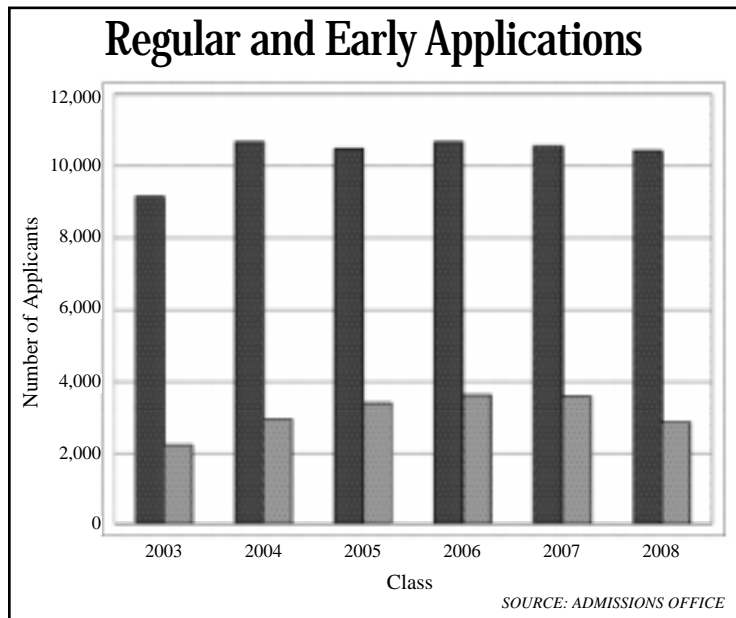
Early class of 2008 by the numbers

Of the accepted early applicants, 53 percent are male. A racial breakdown of the class shows that 41 percent are Caucasian, 26 percent are Asian-American, and 20 percent are members of under-represented minority groups. Almost 40 percent of the accepted students come from southern or mid-Atlantic states. An overwhelming 75 percent are from

public high schools and 93 percent said that they are planning to major in a science or engineering field.

Consistent with the past five years' trend, the average SAT Verbal score of those accepted is 730, while Math is 763. Only 8 percent of those accepted scored 1600 on the SAT I, but 67 percent had at least one score of 800 in one of the sections.

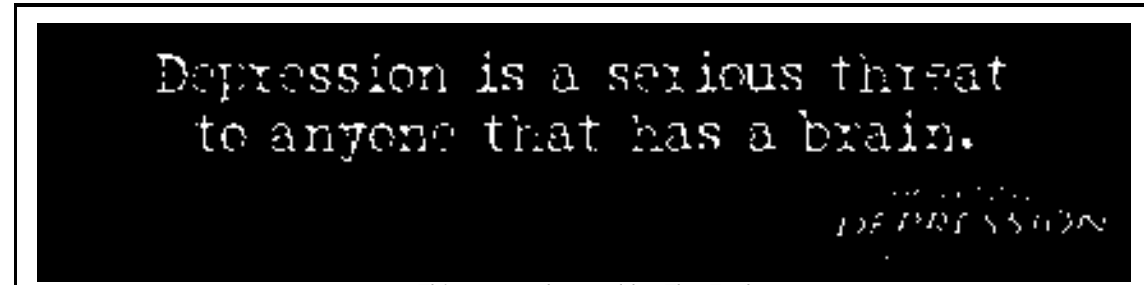
Information on accepted students can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/admissions/inside/yourclass/>.



Admissions Statistics, 1999-2004

	Early Applicants Class of 2003	Class of 2004	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008
Regular Applications	26,422	25,782	25,418	25,873	25,371	25,221
Regular Accepted	1,735	1,728	1,737	1,724	1,724	1,742
Admitted Early	148	188	178	188	188	188
Regular Rejected	1,587	1,540	1,559	1,546	1,536	1,554
Percentage Rejected	59%	59%	59%	58%	58%	58%
Early Action Applications	2,830	3,379	3,427	3,369	3,201	2,837
Early Action Accepted	438	525	545	546	546	546
Early Action Rejected	2,392	2,854	2,882	2,823	2,655	2,291
Percentage Rejected	85%	84%	84%	84%	83%	80%
Students Visited	861	879	783	787	787	802
Students Accepted	0	41	225	221	221	221
Students Rejected	861	838	558	566	566	581
Percentage Rejected	100%	99%	71%	72%	72%	73%
Percentage of Those Ranked Who Were Substantiated	67%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%
Percentage of Those Ranked Who Were in Top 25	69%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%
SAT-I Verbal Mean	720	720	722	722	722	722
SAT-I Math Mean	752	752	752	752	752	752
Male	540	539	539	537	537	537
Female	401	401	401	401	401	401
Percentage of Women in Class	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
American American	18	18	18	18	18	18
Asian American	205	205	205	205	205	205
Caucasian	525	525	525	525	525	525
Hispanic American	75	75	75	75	75	75
Native American	15	15	15	15	15	15
Other	15	15	15	15	15	15
International	15	15	15	15	15	15
When They Use						
Number of Times Requested	15	15	15	15	15	15
Percentage of Times Requested	15	15	15	15	15	15
Number of Times Requested	15	15	15	15	15	15
Percentage of Times Requested	15	15	15	15	15	15

The above table contains admissions statistics for the classes of 2003 through 2008. Data for the class of 2008 are based only on the admitted early action applicants.
SOURCE: ADMISSIONS OFFICE



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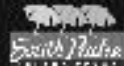
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Tough IAP Training For Women's Track

By Martha Buckley
TEAM MEMBER

According to coach Paul Slovenki, IAP stands for "Intense Athletics Period," and the members of the MIT women's indoor track team seem to agree. While IAP might be a rest period for many, the MIT women are taking the opportunity to do two-a-day-lifting, swimming, and even aqua-jogging in the morning before practice. While it is still early in the season, the MIT women's work is beginning to pay off.

A number of the MIT women already have qualified for post-season championships. Co-captain Catherine A. Tweedie '04 has been consistently vaulting well over 11' and is provisionally qualified for nationals in the pole vault. Her vault of 11' 7" at the Williams Invitational last Saturday is both a personal record in the event and the second best mark in the history of MIT's indoor program. Although the pole vault is the event that will take her to nationals, Tweedie finds time and energy to compete in almost every jumping event avail-

able, and she has qualified for post-season championships in the high jump and long jump as well.

At the Brandeis meet on Jan. 17, co-captain Martha W. Buckley '04 broke the varsity record in the 1500m run, with a time of 4:49.5, qualifying her for the ECAC and Open New England meets. Later in the day, she ran a 10:23 in the 3000m, a few seconds shy of the varsity record in the event, qualifying for the post-season championships in the 3000m as well.

Tweedie and Buckley are joined by a number of other MIT runners, jumpers, and throwers who are currently qualified for post-season championships, including Julia C. Espel '05 in the 3000m, 1500m, and 1000m; Andrea Staid '07 in the 800m; Chinwe P. Nyenke '04 in the triple jump and 55m hurdles; Christine Fanchiang '07 in the 55m dash, 55m hurdles, and pole vault; Nalini Gupta '05 in the long-jump; Elizabeth H. Au '07 in the pole vault and Adrienne M. Irmer '05 in the weight throw.

The MIT women will be competing against Williams, RPI, and Westfield State at the MIT Quad Cup next Saturday, Jan. 31.

Ballroom Dance Storms Manhattan Tournament

By Jessica Lee
TEAM MEMBER

Jan. 16 and 17 saw the USA Ballroom Dancers Associations Northeast Regional Championship at Columbia University.

As the two-day event proceeded, teams trickled gradually into Columbia's Alfred Lerner Hall. MIT's first dancers were the rookies, who arrived Friday afternoon, danced until 1 a.m., and then rose again at 5 a.m. to be ready for Saturdays 8 a.m. pre-Bronze Latin heat. Among these were Steven Zhang and Jessica A. Lee '05, Jonathan Lyles and Donna Nguyen; F. Joseph Pompei PhD '02 and Jin Zhou G; and Muiyiwa Ogunnika and Esther Ryvkina '02.

Competing against 12 to 25 couples in each event, MIT's rookies took home a dazzling array of ribbons and scholarship awards. At the pre-Bronze level, Zhang and Lee placed fourth in Smooth Waltz and Foxtrot and sixth in Standard Waltz and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took fourth in Rhythm Cha Cha and Swing. Lyles and Nguyen took third in Smooth, second in Rhythm, third in Latin Rhumba and Cha Cha, and fourth in Standard. Pompei and Zhou placed first in Smooth, Rhythm, and Latin, and second in Standard. At the Bronze level, Ogunnika and Ryvkina placed fourth in Smooth Waltz, Tango, and Foxtrot.

At other levels, Christopher Stratton and Katarzyna Herink won second in the Smooth Gold 4-dance (Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, and Viennese Waltz). In the Standard catego-

ry, they competed and placed at two levels, taking second in the Bronze 3-dance and third in the Silver 4-dance. Mark Herschberg and Sally Myers placed sixth in the Smooth Pre-Championship 4-dance event and seventh in the Rhythm Pre-Champ 4-dance (Cha Cha, Rhumba, Swing, and Mambo). Bill Liteplo SM '00 and Michelle Goldhaber placed sixth in the Rhythm pre-Champ.

But the time and place to be seen that weekend was at the Saturday night Championship events; spectators stampeded upon door-opening and desperate fans could be found at the entrance begging, "Do you have an extra ticket?" By 10 p.m. there was standing-room only in the auditorium; the MC was warning videotapers to get out of the way of quicksteppers who pushed the edges of the dance floor; insatiably enthusiastic cheers emanated from the MIT section every time their favorite couples waltzed past. Igor Pavlovsky and Yanfeng Lin reached semifinals in the Standard Championship 5-dance (Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep, and Viennese Waltz). In a triumphant finish to the evening, Carlos A. Lopez '05 and Genevieve T. Cuevas G approached the podium at midnight to receive second place in the Latin Pre-Championship 5-dance (Cha Cha, Samba, Rhumba, Paso Doble, and Jive).

By the end of the weekend, toes were sore; voices were hoarse from cheering; and fake-eyelash-bedecked lids drooping from lack of sleep. Dance lessons resumed Monday, to begin practice once again for the next competition.

Reader Response: Why the NBA Is Better Than College Basketball

By Walter Sun
GUEST COLUMNIST

While I respect the opinions voiced by Mr. Chase in his Jan 21 column entitled "Why the NCAA is

Better than the NBA," I would like to provide a counterpoint to his arguments, arguing against several of the six points that he made.

First, the NBA provides one of the most fair and level playing grounds of any college or professional sports (the NFL may have a better system for player movement, but their 16-game season prevents them from creating an unbiased schedule). They have a salary cap and a collective bargaining agreement in place which maintains moderate league parity and controls player movement. The aspect of fairness comes in when one examines the 82 game schedule.

For example, each Western Conference team plays every other team in the conference four times, and every Eastern Conference team twice (the even number of games further allows you to play each opponent the same number of times at home as on the road). So, when the playoffs come around, tiebreakers will involve a comparison of apples to apples. So, to compare NCAA basketball with the NBA point-by-point, I comment below on the six reasons that Mr. Chase cited as positives for NCAA basketball.

1. Egos

Just because college players are not paid (at least not legally) does not make them more humble. If you asked Division I starters how many of them think they'd make it in the NBA, a disproportionate number would say yes. To illustrate, 34 players declared early entry in the NBA draft (a few withdrew before draft day after obtaining advice from NBA insiders regarding their prospects), and only 11 were taken. Of course, these college players are said to have "ambition" instead of "ego," but their take on how they should be treated vis-a-vis the rest of the team and the league is the same.

2. Playing Style

I agree with Mr. Chase that the playing style in college basketball is more team-oriented. However, just because it is a team game doesn't make the sport more fun to watch. Otherwise, you could argue that the most exciting basketball is seen by watching a group of high school seniors who have practiced and played together throughout their entire secondary school education. They exhibit the best teamwork and might not have a single superstar. The most exciting basketball is played by the best players, which are primarily in the NBA. With the legalization of zone defenses in the NBA, more team efforts will over-

come individual efforts. However, these games are still exciting because you are watching the best players work together. So, my point is that people like to watch NBA-caliber players play, regardless of style.

3. College Fans

Fair enough, no argument here. College students generally show much more fanaticism than the average businessman fan at a pro game.

4. Parity

With the advent of rampant free agency in all pro sports, as well as college players leaving early for professional drafts, it seems that the word "parity" became the catchphrase of the 90s. No longer was it exciting to have teams like the Celtics and Lakers dominate pro basketball, or the likes of UCLA and Kentucky dominating the ranks of college ball. I think that TV execs came up with that idea and pushed it forward in order to convince viewers that match-ups that weren't compelling actually were because "in any given day, anyone can win." Consider this: in the semifinals of any contest, would you rather watch the top teams play each other, or mismatches due to earlier round upsets?

Since the NCAA tournament increased the field in 1979 (from 32 teams to 48; the tournament was later increased to 64, then 65), a #1 seed has won the tournament 14 of 25 times (56 percent); so, almost half the time, one of the top four teams in the country did not win the title. For college football fans, imagine how ludicrous it would be this past year, if instead of deciding who of OU, USC, and LSU should be number 1, there was a 50 percent chance that none of them would be the national champ this year? Contrast this to the NBA, where since the field increased to 16 teams (from 12, in 1984), a division champion (one of the top four NBA teams) has won 18 out of 20 times (90%).

Even so, it's still rarely clear who will win the NBA title each year. I disagree that "you usually know which [team will win] by the first round of the playoffs." Last year, very few voters thought San Antonio would win it all after the first round (the second round match-up with the Lakers, as well as their shaky first round against Phoenix, contributed to this). The San Antonio/Los Angeles, Dallas/Sacramento, Dallas/San Antonio, and San Antonio/New Jersey series were all pretty good ones to watch, in the final three rounds.

On the flipside, which great Final Four matchups do you remember? The last great one I can think of was Duke/UCConn in 1999. Everyone wanted to see Kentucky/Arizona last year, but that never happened. In 2000, the Final Four had #1 seed Michigan St, and a five and two eight seeds, which looked like a pre-sea-

son Spartan invitational. In that year, the only match-ups of top 10 teams occurred in the Midwest Final when MSU defeated Iowa State (effectively the national title game). Sure, it might be fun during the moment to see Marquette shock Kentucky and Kansas beat Arizona, but you come to realize the consequences the next day, which is that Final Four weekend will once again be a let-down.

5. Permanence

Mr. Chase writes, "There is a much better chance the team you root for will be around for as long as you are, and there is no chance of the team being sold or moving cities." Since 1985, when the Kansas City Kings moved to Sacramento, only two teams have moved in the NBA (Vancouver to Memphis, and Charlotte to New Orleans). So, most NBA teams stay in the same place, and most superstars stay with their team. When you think of Paul Pierce, Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett, and Kobe Bryant, you think of Boston, San Antonio, Minnesota, and the Lakers, respectively.

Even players who have moved earlier on in their career have general associations with their current team (Shaquille O'Neal, Jason Kidd, Chris Webber). In the NCAA, players jump for the NBA so quickly that it's hard to keep up with the stars of each team (I acknowledge that this is as much a fault of the NBA as it is college, but that's the current state of things). Sure, Syracuse will be Syracuse, but in 2003, they are no longer Carmelo Anthony's Syracuse Orangemen. Permanence of a school or franchise is meaningless if there is no association with the individuals on the team.

6. Playoffs

The NBA playoff system provides a good mix of fairness with excitement. A team does not lose the fruits of an 82-game season by having a single bad day in the spring. Teams that advance in the playoffs have to show consistency and excellence. This does not take away from the excitement or competitiveness of series (the Detroit/Orlando first round series was exciting even though #8 seeded Orlando lost a 3-1 series lead). If you reduced the NCAA tournament to 16 teams and had four best-of-three weekends (if you want to keep the excitement of the tournament, you certainly could grant the top eight teams byes into the final tourney, and have the other 8 spots up for grabs), you would have some high caliber college basketball and excitement similar to what you have now. With regard to fairness, the seeding process has no subjectivity.

In college basketball (as well as football and baseball), individual opinions determine the placement of teams in the post-season competition. In the NBA, your winning percentage determines where you are placed, which is the ultimate level of fairness given that the schedule is balanced between your team and all other teams in your conference. Granted, the only aspect of unfairness is deciding who gets home field advantage in the NBA Finals, since teams from each conference play different schedules. For example, the Pacers may have home field throughout this year, but this is a minor thing compared to major league baseball, which has intra-divisional unbalanced schedules, and the NFL, where 14 of your 16 games are concentrated in three of the eight divisions, making wild card comparisons highly inequitable.

Long story short, of all major college and professional sports in America, the NBA does the best job of balancing competitive fairness with fan excitement. Evidence of this fact can be seen by the growth in fan interest the past decade (compared with sports like MLB, which have seen fan attrition).



Michael N. Beregovsky '06 lunges at an opponent from Boston College during a fencing invitational at the Flynn Recreational Complex at BC. The men's team went on to defeat Brown (16-11) and Dartmouth (22-5), but lost to BC (12-15).

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SPORTS

Students Blow Away the Stress

By Brian Chase
COLUMNIST

Quick. Name the most popular phys. ed. classes at MIT. I'll spot you downhill skiing during IAP. Now name the second most popular. Firing blanks? Well, if that horrible pun didn't tip you off already, the answer will definitely surprise you: Beginner Pistol. This IAP, 131 people lotteried for Beginner Pistol, the second most of any P.E. And this isn't isolated, either. You might be asking yourself, why pistol? Turns out that pistol class suits MIT better than you might think and is nowhere near as threatening or dangerous as some people assume.

When I first saw "Beginner Pistol" as a heading on the P.E. list, I was kind of skeptical. And when I learned how many people signed up for it, I was more skeptical still. I mean, pistol at MIT? An institute with the brightest minds in world? Well, believe it. Students consistently fill the pistol P.E. classes, and the interest in open shooting sessions of the range is huge. Why the interest? "You don't have to be born with agility or strength to succeed in pistol," he adds. "This ... attracts a lot of students."

When I asked some students in my class why they enrolled, the reasons they gave were the commonplace reasons you would expect for taking any sport.

"I wanted to learn another skill I wouldn't have had otherwise," said Matya Y. Gilbert-Schachter '05. He also said his curiosity was a factor in choosing pistol, and he was enjoying it much the same way he enjoyed ice skating. David M. Sachs G wanted to "do something unusual" and said that he "didn't really think about it" when he signed up for the class. Rafiq Z. Dhanani '05 did find one reason pis-

tol was more popular than some other sports: "I think the frustration helps," and pistol does give a better catharsis for the stress of MIT than some other sports might.

So MIT students are willing to take pistol for understandable reasons, but are they any good at it? In fact, MIT students are better suited to pistol than students at most other schools, according to Coach Hart. He related to me that "shooting ... attracts a lot of people in the hard sciences" and that "MIT students are inquisitive, have self-discipline, and attention to detail ... all the qualities for a successful MIT student also make for a good shooter." This might explain why the MIT Pistol Team dates back to the thirties and why the Pistol Team can beat any other team in the country, including those from military academies, where the students are expected to have some experience in pistol before they join the team. MIT has had national champions that have never touched a gun before they set foot on campus. The same determination and dedication that lets MIT students excel at everything else lets them excel in pistol shooting the same way.

The curious reader might be asking, what's Beginner Pistol like? It begins and ends with safety. I took the class this IAP, and it was two sessions in before we even touched a gun, and three before we fired one. The first things taught are the rules of gun safety, and they are repeated at the beginning of each class. We learn about the pistol's mechanics, parts, and operation before we even step foot on the range. The point of Beginner Pistol, as Coach Hart emphasizes, is to learn safety, not to learn to shoot well. This emphasis on safety goes a long way towards disabusing students

of the notion that guns are inherently bad, or that they cannot be used in a controlled fashion.

Once I finally got to fire the gun, I was surprised at how unaffected I was. I may have been expecting something more than simply a bang, slight recoil and a hole in a paper square 50 feet away, but that's all I got. And that's all you need to have fun in Beginner Pistol. The challenge of the sport, like any sport, is to improve yourself, and in Pistol, the challenge is accuracy. You'd be surprised at how many detailed things can throw off your aim, from the set of your shoulders to how you focus on the sights of what target you are using. Some might think firing a pistol accurately is as easy as pointing and pulling the trigger, but they are deceived. Those of us in the class learn that it's just as easy to miss the target as to hit it in the early stages of firing, and that it is almost impossible to achieve the accuracy we see in the target posted on the walls of Pistol Team members.

I am proud to say that I have improved over the course of the class, and I found myself looking forward to the opportunity to shoot again, to see if I could improve on my best set of shots. And that's part of the reason sports are there in the first place, to challenge us to keep improving ourselves through persistence and concentration. In that way, Pistol is like any other sport. Though, to be honest, I think I have found another reason pistol is popular. When I signed up for Beginner Pistol, it was to gain a P.E. credit without breaking a sweat. While my motives may not have been admirable, I'm glad I got to expand my knowledge and enjoy myself in a very enjoyable, albeit noisy, activity.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Coach Jarek Koniusz (right) advises Mika Tomczak '06 during a fencing invitational match-up against Brown University at Boston College's Flynn Recreational Complex on Saturday. The women's fencing team went on to defeat BC, 15-12.

Owens, Johnson Take Spotlight With Gripes

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

With this being Super Bowl week, all the focus is on football. The winning streak of the New England Patriots has of course been impressive. The grit of the Carolina Panthers has perhaps been the most under appreciated thing all season. The storylines are great. Jake Delhomme is trying to be the second coming of Tom Brady, and Tom Brady is just trying to win his second Super Bowl in three years. In fact, the Super Bowl is so celebratory that all the Cristal in Houston has been sold and people are driving to Louisiana to get more.

But then, there are always the idiots trying to ruin all the festivities surrounding joyous times. There has been Ray Lewis and his fiasco after the Super Bowl several years ago. There was Pete Rose releasing his gambling statement right around the time that the Hall of Fame announcements were being made. Now, there's the pair of Terrell Owens and Keyshawn Johnson making dumb headway this week. Perhaps we should expect something like this, after all, these two are among the biggest loudmouths in the entire NFL.

Let's begin with Terrell Owens. He isn't new to stupid behavior. Several years ago, when he was playing the Dallas Cowboys at Texas Stadium, Owens proceeded to stomp on the star located at midfield after scoring a touchdown. When he did again, he was stopped by a Cowboys player running over to tackle Owens.

Also, Owens once pulled out a sharpie right after scoring a touchdown out of his shoes in order to sign the football for his agent. Granted Joe Horn has topped that with his planted cell phone call, but Owens was the original pre-meditated celebration artist.

This week, Owens has stated that he probably will not be back with the San Francisco 49ers, and that he would most likely sign with Baltimore or Atlanta. That's about as normal as this story gets.

Owens continues by ripping Jeff Garcia completely. He says that of him and Garcia, only one of the two will return in the next year. He does not want to play with a quarterback who cannot "match [his] skills as a receiver," Owens stated. He also says

that "A receiver is only as good as his quarterback."

It seems to me that Owens thinks the world of himself and that Garcia can't do anything. The truth is both players have been to the same number of Pro Bowls. Sure, Garcia is more of a scrambler than a down-the-field passer, but that doesn't mean that Garcia can't quarterback. If you look at Owens's numbers from the last two seasons, he was high but not tops in many categories. I guess that means that Garcia isn't that bad of a quarterback after all.

So what does this really say about Terrell Owens? Perhaps he's just looking for trouble, for attention. Or it's perhaps that the 49ers should listen to Owens: just keep the quarterback.

Then, there's outright anger of Keyshawn Johnson. He was issued a temporary restraining order this week for threatening who he thought was a boyfriend of his ex-wife, who Johnson thinks is purposefully disrupting his reconciling with his ex-wife. The restraining order was due to Keyshawn's call to the supposed boyfriend, John Mahannah Jr., and threats to kill and beat him.

This wasn't the first stupidity offense for Keyshawn either, granted in the past, they have not been as legally troubling. Johnson has previously criticized Wayne Chrebet when Johnson went from the Jets to the Buccaneers. This season, he was deactivated by the Buccaneers in order for the team to perform better.

His agent said that some parts of the story involving the restraining order were exaggerated. Granted that may be the case, but still, how can one tolerate this kind of behavior?

Professional athletes are the role models of many children around the country. Their jerseys are worn by kids, and they strive to become Terrell Owens or Keyshawn Johnson. Yes, these stories might not make the radar if they were from ordinary people, but these are superstars.

Athletes must understand that their behavior matters a lot to people and should much more seriously consider their actions before anything. In any case, we would never want future children to taunt their fellow workers or to threaten their potential enemies. I'm guessing that even Owens and Johnson would feel the same about that.

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