Smith is New BC House-Master

By Marissa Vogt

Professor Merritt Roe Smith will become the new housemaster of Burton Conner House next August, taking over for current housemasters Halston and Katherine Taylor.

Smith said that he became interested in becoming a housemaster while serving as a faculty fellow at J.-entry in MacGregor House. As part of his role as a faculty fellow, Smith said, he would frequently join the students for dinners and study breaks.

"It began to turn on lights about what I was missing at MIT," Smith said. "There was a lingering feeling that I'd had for years that I was at MIT but I wasn't completely of MIT."

Larry G. Benedict, the dean for student life, said that a search committee chaired by Halston Taylor received letters of interest from faculty members and conducted interviews for the position.

Smith was interviewed by students, graduate resident tutors, and staff at Burton Conner.

Smith said that he is eager to begin the job, and predicts that he will be at Burton Conner for the next three to five years. He said he hopes to make positive changes within the dormitory.

"I'm sure there will be some changes, but I want to meet with students and get a sense of the culture."

Students Should Get Flu Shot, MIT Says

By Megan Oglivy

December is here, and with it comes final exams, term papers, holiday parties — and flu season.

MIT Medical recommends that all students consider getting an annual flu shot, available for ten dollars at MIT Medical.

Although a little late in the season to be getting a flu shot — the ideal time is October or November — MIT Medical still recommends getting the shot. "It takes two weeks for the shot to become effective," said Tripte Nurse Lynn M. Fugates. "But we still have vaccine. It's not too late to get it."

Five thousand flu shots were ordered for the MIT community this fall and more than 3,500 have already been administered to students, spouses, faculty, and staff, said Maryanne Kirkbride, the clinical director for campus life.

Flu shot just a phone call away

"Students who want a flu shot should call the main desk at MIT Medical to book an appointment," Kirkbride said. The number is x-4481.

For Katherine A. Bourgez-G, getting a flu shot at MIT Medical was an easy process. "The experience was simple," she said. "You didn't have to wait in line. It took about three minutes."

Jennifer F. Frazer-G agreed that MIT Medical provided a good service for students. When asked the important question of whether getting the flu shot hurt, Frazer smiled.

"The nurse was really good. It was not a big fan of shots, and I don't get sick that often to really worry about it," she said.

Courtney Rotherock '06 is also not going to get the flu shot. "I didn't know they were giving them out, and I've never gotten one before," she said.

This year, Rotherock isn't going to make an exception, she said.

Dorus big target for flu virus

"As of last Wednesday, we've had three cases of flu so far this year," Kirkbride said.

"Because of the living conditions, it is a little bit different than if you are living with your family," Kirkbride said. "It's important for a student to make the time to get a flu shot. It doesn't take very long, and we can schedule it at your convenience."

Fugates agrees with Kirkbride. "The flu virus is usually carried in the respiratory tract."

IFC, ASA Develop Easier Recognition Procedure

By Jenny Zhang

The Interfraternity Council and the Association of Student Activi- ties have developed a quick process for fraternities to become ASA-recognized.

Fraternities recognized by the

ASA can reserve campus spaces by themselves, instead of working through the IFC. ASA-recognized groups also receive a free page of advertising each year in The Tech.

The process involves filling out a start-up petition form with information such as the fraternity name, president's name, officer and general mailing lists, as well as signatures from the house president and an IFC official, according to Eric J. Konopka '05, the outgoing IFC vice president, and ASA President Kathryn M. Walter '05, who developed the process.

"All we have to do is approve the constitution, and all that takes is two people" looking it over, Walter said.

She said that the ASA has certain requirements of the constitution such that the fraternity president and treasurer not be the same person.

If a fraternity is part of the IFC and its constitution is approved, recognition is "likely to be instantaneous," she said.

Konopka said that he mentioned the new ASA recognition process to fraternity presidents several weeks ago at an IFC Presidents Council meeting, and that so far three fraternities — Delta Kappa Epsilon, Sigma Nu, and Pi Lambda Phi — have submitted petitions. "Ideally, eventually all the fraternities will become recognized," he said, citing easier reservation policies.

Recognition has benefits

The only fraternity already recognized, Alpha Epsilon Pi, has been an ASA member for at least two years, said Joshua A. Gruchow '05, the house president and incoming IFC vice president.

The fraternity has not applied for funding from MIT, but there are some funds available only to ASA members that might be useful in the future, he said.

Gruchow said ASA recognition was helpful in allowing the fraternity to reserve rooms directly.

ASA will not be judicial

Walter said that the ASA will not be responsible for monitoring the fraternities for disciplinary pur- poses. "It is not the intent of the IFC to be judicial," she said.

Gruchow and Walter said that the ASA's "God Clause," a para- graph required in activity constitutions that establishes groups as sub-ordinate to the ASA's Executive Board, would probably not apply to fraternities.
WEATHER

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, December 2, 2003

Bush Aides: Allies Will Not Leave Iraq, Despite Attacks

By Steven R. Weisman

Washington Post

Business officials announced Monday that a recent wave of attacks on U.S. military targets in Iraq were not going to deter Washington's commitment to the war in Iraq. Despite a series of insurgent attacks over the weekend, the Bush administration expressed confidence that the campaign would continue to evolve with the U.S. military making gains.

"We're not going to be deterred by a few attacks," a spokesman for the U.S. military said. "We're going to keep pressures on the enemy and continue to make gains." The spokesman said the U.S. military was not going to be deterred by the attacks and that it would continue to carry out its mission.

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By David M. Halbfinger and Rachel L. Swarns

Two rival Democrats harshly criticized the Bush administration on domestic policy in speeches on Monday: Rep. Richard Gephardt said the president had failed to finance crucial security initiatives, and Sen. John Kerry compared the Bush administration to a wounded bull, Rick Mercer acknowledged in an interview that he was overestimating the case for laughs — two Canadians and a New Zealand columnist have opened up on social issues that go to the heart of fundamental values.

A more distinctive Canadian identity — one far more in line with European sensibilities — is emerging and growing new frictions with the United States. "Being attached to America these days is like being in a pen with a wounded bull," Rick Mercer, Canada’s leading political satirist, said at a recent show in Toronto. "Between the pot smoking and the gay marriage, quite frankly it’s wonder there is not a giant deck of cards out there with all our faces on it."

Rebecca Corry of the Sunday Times, a frequent contributor to The Star, said: "I'm the kind of guy that believes in UFOs even though I've never seen one, and I would say this is not as probable as a UFO," Speis said by phone from his office at the university. Speis said he had heard rumors about the Taos hum. "I think some people want to hear things," he said. "It’s almost that it is mass hypnosis, but maybe it’s the power of suggestion.

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No one else in Phil Ciofalo’s neighborhood in Albuquerque, N.M., by the foothills of the Sandia Mountains is bothered by the humming sound that irritates him constantly. They cannot even hear it.

"These people are definitely not crazy," said Jim Cowan, senior consultant for Acentech Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. Acentech was hired by the City of Kokomo, Ind., to study a mystery that has residents constantly complaining about in 1999. "They are just picking something up that others can," Cowan said.

The preliminary investigation in Kokomo has determined one possible source for the hum, but like other studies it concluded that there could be several causes and that more research was needed.

The most common description of the hum is that it sounds like the low rumble of a distant diesel truck idling. Some people also feel a vibration, or do not hear any sound but just sense the vibration. Others report various maladies they associate with the hum, including headaches, diarrhea, night sweats, dizziness, fatigue and memory loss.

There have been reports of hums in England, Scotland, Australia and other places in the United States for decades.

"The hums," as these are sometimes called, vary widely in size and in the times and locations that the sound is most pronounced.

Ciofalo has contacted the county health and environmental office and written his senators and members of Congress. Rep. Heather A. Wilson, R.N.M., forwarded his request to specialists at the University of New Mexico, and Ciofalo has received techniques from Sandia National Laboratories in his home to do tests.

He has temporarily had his power, security alarms, water and phone turned off and now sleeps with his headphones on. He also had his hearing tested and found it to be "as good as a newborn baby."

In the 1990s, complaints about a hum spread in Taos reached Congress and an investigation was done. But with the study inconclusive as to a source of the hum, news of it nearly vanished. The hum, however, continues for some people as it has for the town and for others who have disappeared by writing about it in local newspapers or in online discussion forums.

Not everyone is convinced that the hum is real. In most cases there is simply no evidence that the hum people are hearing is coming from an external source. Gregory Spisz, a senior electronic technician at the University of New Mexico, sent Ciofalo a letter to conduct tests this year after the chairman of his department received the letter forwarded from Wilson’s office. Spisz said he was unable to detect a hum with his equipment or simply hear it.

"I'm the kind of guy that believes in UFOs even though I’ve never seen one, and I would say this is not as probable as a UFO," Spisz said by phone from his office at the university. Spisz said he had heard rumors about the Taos hum. "I think some people want to hear things," he said. "It’s almost that it is mass hypnosis, but maybe it’s the power of suggestion.

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THE TECH Page 3

THE NEW YORK TIMES

On Civil Liberties, U.S. Security

By Clifford Krauss

Two rival Democrats harshly criticized the Bush administration on domestic policy in speeches on Monday: Rep. Richard Gephardt said the president had failed to finance crucial security initiatives, and Sen. John Kerry compared the administration's excesses; indefinite detentions of U.S. citizens without notice; and the USA PATRIOT Act, the library and business records, to name a few.

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Following the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court’s decision that prohibiting marriage between two members of the same sex was unconstitutional, the Cambridge City Council became the first municipal body to stand behind the ruling and support the issuing of marriage licenses to same-sex couples “as soon as legally possible.” The Tech strongly supports the actions of the council in declaring their support for this right, and applauds their prudence in taking actions that will not fan the flames of angry backlash.

The court’s decision was based in part on the understanding that civil marriage is first and foremost based upon “the exclusive commitment of the marriage partners to one another, not the begetting of children.” The court recognized that the benefits of civil marriage should not be denied to those couples who wish to make these commitments, lest the members of these couples become legally inferior to their opposite-sex counterparts, which is a clear violation of several statutes underlining equal protection in the state constitution. It is not hard to imagine that children of these same-sex couples would be harmed by the restrictions of rights on this parameter restricted them.

Cambridge is seen by many as an excessively liberal city council, so it came as little surprise to opponents of the city council, so it came as little surprise to opponents of the council to see that the council was interested in making action immediately. The first proposal brought to the table, by council members Brian Murphy and Denise Simmons, applauded the ruling and supported the issuing of marriage licenses to same-sex couples “as soon as legally possible.”

MIT students should take this opportunity to get involved, make their voices on this issue heard, and ensure that the state does the right thing when gay rights are concerned. We are proud of the state our city has taken.

Who disagrees with the steps taken by Cambridge, and only through the organized power of the generation of the future will our civil liberties continue to be accessible to more and more of our fellow citizens. We must now wait nearly six months for Beacon Hill to make the appropriate corrections to state law, but for those who have waited for this small measure of justice much longer, six months won’t be that long.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, staff editor, opinion editor, a senior editor, and a photo editor. Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged. Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, MA 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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

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To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. As an accepting community with a strong LGBT presence, MIT continues to represent what is best in society. MIT students should take this opportunity to get involved, make their voices on this issue heard, and ensure that the state does the right thing, where gay rights are concerned. We are proud to live in Cambridge, and proud of the state our city has taken. Students should not forget that there are many in power who disagree with the steps taken by Cambridge, and only through the organized power of the generation of the future will our civil liberties continue to be accessible to more and more of our fellow citizens. We must now wait nearly six months for Beacon Hill to make the appropriate corrections to state law, but for those who have waited for this small measure of justice much longer, six months won’t be that long.
Andrew C. Thomas

I was intrigued by the mention of the new MTBA rules regarding subway musicians in the article. If enacted, these rules could significantly impact the livelihood of musicians and the overall atmosphere of our subway system.

The MBTA has been criticized for its limited approach to managing subway musicians. They have argued that allowing musicians to perform at subway stations would lead to a decline in the quality of performances and a decrease in safety. However, I believe that the musicians' contributions to the city's cultural life are invaluable and should be preserved.

As a musician myself, I understand the passion and dedication required to perform in such a challenging environment. The MBTA's proposed changes might not only result in a loss of revenue for the musicians but could also lead to a decrease in the overall quality of subway performances.

Moreover, the MBTA's primary concern about safety should be addressed through proper guidelines and enforcement, not by eliminating the musicians completely. A careful balance must be struck to ensure the safety of passengers while allowing the musicians to continue their valuable work.

I urge the MBTA to consider revising their proposed rule changes. Perhaps there is a way to accommodate the musicians while maintaining the safety of the passengers. A dialogue between both parties could lead to a mutually beneficial solution.

Jolene Singh

The need for the Institute to communicate its intent more directly and more consistently with students will be necessary to avoid misinterpretation of its effort.

At MacGregor House, for instance, the House Committee has been struggling to come to terms with the classification of its high-rise suite lounges as common areas. Deciding to classify the suite lounges as common areas would mean that all students would have access to them, regardless of their living arrangements. This would be a significant change from the current policy, which restricts access to a limited number of residents.

However, the potential for misinterpretation arises when students are not adequately informed about the changes. As a result, students might feel that their personal space is being encroached upon, which could lead to conflict and dissatisfaction.

It is crucial for the Institute to communicate its intentions clearly and consistently to ensure that students understand the changes being implemented. This would help to avoid misunderstandings and promote a more harmonious living environment.

Declaring high-rise lounge areas "private" would exempt residents from having to follow the standard alcohol event registration procedures for "public" areas. This could lead to a lack of oversight and potential violations.

As O'Dair notes, it is important to re-characterize these lounge areas as public. Safety being of primary concern, access to alcohol in these areas must be controlled, and this can be achieved through proper registration and monitoring.

The Institute's commitment to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all students is commendable. By ensuring transparency and clear communication, the Institute can foster an environment where everyone feels respected and valued.

Maeya Gilbert-Schachter

Many schools are able to use a successful football program as a cash cow, which funds other athletic endeavors on campus, ranging from intramural sports to women's volleyball.

The MBTA has very legitimate concerns about the music itself, but clearly both sides must compromise on a solution. If the MBTA enforces stricter regulations on the type and volume of music played, it is reasonable to expect that the musicians might have to adapt their shows to meet these guidelines. This would be a reasonable compromise, allowing both parties to continue enjoying the benefits of the subway music scene.

The MBTA's decision to limit the volume of music played at subway stations is a step in the right direction. By enforcing stricter regulations, the MBTA can help to maintain the quality of performances while ensuring the safety and comfort of its passengers.

Jolene Singh

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Maeya Gilbert-Schachter is a member of the class of 2005.
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Michael Joo Exhibit Explores Religion, Identity and the Metaphysical

By Lauren Nowlerskl

Science Meets Art at List Center

December 2, 2003

Michael Joo
List Visual Arts Center
Oct. 17 - Jan. 4

The correlation between science and art is generally a strong one. Artists often utilize scientific influences in their work, and the world of science in general can be viewed as art. The most well-known example of this is Leonardo da Vinci, whose education in anatomy was the basis of his art.

Joo's sculptures combine different methods to best exemplify the point he is trying to make. In "Trampoline," he constructs a tall bungee-like structure that appears to be functional, although this is never determined. On the top and the middle of the structure, Joo has attached a videotape of himself bouncing up and down on a trampoline, and the cameraman angle suggests that he keeps moving through the lens of the camera. The contrast between the structure and the video element keeps the notion of motion, despite the fact that the sculpture is still the entire time.

Joo's videos are creative works as well. In his three-part looped video, "The Salt Transfer Cycle," Joo examines the cyclic aspects of life. In one part of the video, he is shown "swimming" through a recording filled with MSG. Next, he is shown crawling through the salt, and then walking and running through the salt, filmed in the salt plains of Utah. The video plays on loop to suggest that the cycle has no true beginning or end. This video is based on a Korean tradition of eating ground-up elk horns in order to increase sexual potency. The salt that Joo is shown swimming through, crawling, walking, and running through is supposed ground-up elk horns. Perhaps his most noted work, "Circannual Rhythm (philibotoke)," is a 25-minute video shot in Alaska. The world premiere of "Circannual Rhythm (philibotoke)", a 25-minute video shot in Alaska. In the second part of the video, a local Inuit village is shown to be excavating a sod village. One of the actors suddenly begins having many seizures. The character changes form many times before finally being re-formed back into a human.

The final phase of the video is set around a taxidermy caribou carcass. Video surveillance cameras are set around the carcass— as well as inside. The videos help to show its defiance of natural decay. Both the first and last parts of the video symbolize decay in one form or another, and the middle is another cyclic video like "Salt Transfer Cycle." The man undertaking the cyclic transformation leads to the unknown and back, but at the beginning and end, is the same person he always was. This video poses questions on many levels, and all the while has many scientific references and psychological references throughout.

Joo's sculptures and videos are different from anything you will find in the Museum of Fine Arts or the Met and is interesting to view, both as an aspiring artist and as a human.
Hey, Bobby!

Mina... what do you want?

What do I want? Nothing! Man, what planet are you from? I just wanted to say hello, that's all! That's what friends do, right?

F-friends? You really consider us friends? Do you mean that?

Of course, I do, silly! Why wouldn't I?Oops, look at the time! Gotta get to class. Peace!

Well...

They say friendship is a give and take... I guess I'm halfway convinced...

I think too much... too much! I have to slow down. There is no reason why I should be using my brain so intensely. After all, it's just a muscle, right?

Like my legs, for example... I don't run all day, do it? Likewise, I shouldn't think all day long, either.

Or, like my stomach... I don't eat all day long, do it? Likewise, I shouldn't think all day long, either.

Worse, if I compare it with that other muscle, then I shouldn't be running at all.

While you A-holes were at home, I was stuck in MIT Medical for 4 days...

Good morning, time for your urinary catheter.

You said I had pneumonia, flu, and a fever, where's the catheter going to do?

You're right, better make it 2 catheters.

That's it, me and my IV are outta here.

Mr. Owl, how many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop?

Stop asking me that stupid question, you damn kids!

by Ali Ghajarnia
Cheer up, Cecilia... look at it this way. Unlike us social science and humanities majors, at least you'll get a high-paying job when you finish.

But at what price? Are our souls worth financial security? Is our integrity as cheap as a six-figure salary?

WOE TO US, ENGINEERS! OWNERS OF TECHNOLOGY! PEONS OF...

That's it, I'm out of here.

WILLY WORRY'S WISDOM,
Events Calendar

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Flu Big in Dorms, Nurses Say
Flu, from Page 1
through the air," she said. "The moisture from an infected person's mouth and respiratory system can be carried through the air to you -- it's one of the ways viruses can get transferred -- and close living conditions in a dormitory may make you more susceptible to the flu," Forgues said.

Enjoying a healthy lifestyle -- getting enough sleep, eating balanced and regular meals, avoiding cigarette smoke and alcohol, which can lower the immune system, and exercising daily -- will go far in keeping the flu virus at bay, Forgues said.

Frequent hand washing is also an important part of avoiding the flu virus. "I always recommend hand washing, which is a low-tech and really important technique," Kirk-bride said.

Flu frequent cause of death
The flu is the most frequent cause of death from a vaccine-preventable disease in the United States, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 36,000 Americans die from influenza-associated deaths and approximately 114,000 influenza patients are hospitalized each year, according to CDC figures.

Although most people that die from influenza-associated illnesses are older than 65, there are many others who should also think about getting the flu shot, the CDC says. The CDC recommends that "adults and children with conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease" get the flu vaccine, along with people with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, and children between the ages of 6 months to 23 months.

Healthy people with active lifestyles can also benefit from the protection the vaccine has to offer, according to the CDC.

Flu sufferers should see a doctor
Flu sufferers may have muscle aches, high fever, chills, headache, fatigue, and sometimes nausea and vomiting, Forgues said. A cough, sore throat, or runny nose might be symptoms of the flu, she said, and all of these signs may range from very mild to very severe.

Forgues recommends that people with advanced flu symptoms see their physicians. These symptoms could include, "a fever over 101 degrees Fahrenheit that lasts for two to three days, dizziness, which could indicate dehydration, a sore throat that lasts longer than four to five days, or a persistent cough that lasts for two weeks," Forgues said.

For people with the flu, MIT Medical will help treat the symptoms of the virus, but will not prescribe antibiotics to patients, Forgues said. "Antibiotics cannot cure the flu and we do not treat viruses with them," she said.

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After 9 Years At BC, Housemasters Leave

'We Had Accomplished What We Wanted'

Housemaster, from Page 1

ture there," Smith said.

Taylor leaving to get out of city

Halston Taylor served as the
housemaster at Random Hall for
three years before coming to Burton
Corner nine years ago.
The primary reason for the
change, Taylor said, is that he
wants to raise his children outside
of the city. He said that they will
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August.

Further motivation, Taylor said,
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