Vest to Announce Retirement

By Keith J. Winnelt

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

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

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

In an event that appears to have permanently subdued student life, the Institute was rocked at the mid-point of Vest's tenure by the 1997 drinking death of freshman Scott S. Kroeger '01 at a fraternity event gone awry. Vest responded by ordering all students to live in dormitories for their freshman year and announcing a crackdown on alcohol, moves that were wildly unpopular among students and brought him student enmity that still persists.

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

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

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

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

Harvard Study Finds Binge Drinking Less Frequent on Diverse Campuses

By Megan Ogilvie

White male college students may be less likely to binge drink at institutions with higher percentages of minority, female and older students, according to a study by Harvard School of Public Health researchers.

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

In response to Wechsler's findings of the moderating effects of student diversity on heavy episodic drinking rates of white males and underage students were significantly lower in schools that had more minority, female and older students. Dr. Henry Wechsler, director of the Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Studies Program led the study.

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

Drinking rates vary among groups

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

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

The study found that incoming students crowd the electronics lab in 38-500 (high-risk groups).

The MIT campus will be closed for 31 days from Dec. 25 until Jan. 5 in an effort to reduce operational expenses.

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

While essential services such as campus police and health services will be staffed as usual on weekends and holidays, other areas such as mail and payroll will provide very little service, according to the Financial Services website.

Instead of normal mail deliveries, mail and packages will be available for pickup at Mail Services in Building WW15. Time sensitive mail such as FedEx may be reprocessed for special delivery.

Mail to the dormitories will not be affected because the U.S. Postal Service delivers directly to the dormitories, said Marty O. Brien of Mail Services.

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

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

On-campus dining facilities will be limited. At least one on-campus food provider will be open during the break, except for on Christmas and New Year's Day.

The holiday dining schedule is posted at http://web.mit.edu/dining.

Closing days, not vacation days

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

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

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

Curry is not aware of any previous
India's Leading Hindu Party Makes Gains in Elections
THE NEW YORK TIMES
NEW DELHI, INDIA

The Hindu nationalistic party that leads India's coalition government decisively won three of four key state elections held on Monday, and the party counted Thursday.

The results, seen as a prelude to the general elections to be held next year, were an unexpected boon for the Bharatiya Janata Party. The party had won two in a row in the previous Indian National Congress, whose incumbent governments lost in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. The Congress Party, the base of the Nehru-Gandhi family dynasty, retained control only of Delhi.

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

Appeals Court Voids Part Of Widely Applied Antiterrorist Law
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

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

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco, threw into doubt the administration's reliance on portions of a 1991 antiterrorism law making it a crime to provide material support to groups the government considers as terrorist. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the material support ban has become a focal point in the war on terrorism.

The ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco, throws into doubt the administration's reliance on portions of a 1991 antiterrorism law making it a crime to provide material support to groups the government considers as terrorist. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the material support ban has become a focal point in the war on terrorism.

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

The president said he would continue a program to monitor steel imports closely to detect any destabilizing surges of cheap foreign steel.

Bush Rescinds 21-Month-Old Tariffs on All Steel Imports
By Richard W. Stevenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Automakers Agree To Make SUVs Sold in U.S. Safer
By Danny Hakim
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

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

Fifteen automakers from four nations agreed to redesign their light trucks, mostly SUVs and pickups, to reduce the likelihood that they would skid over the front bumpers of cars in collisions.

They also agreed to increase protection of pedestrians in collisions. In some crashes, the safety belt system is not deployed, leaving pedestrians to be struck by the open sides of light trucks.

The changes, which will cost about $300 a vehicle and be phased in between 2007 and 2008, will probably save thousands of lives annually, according to projections included in a letter released Wednesday.

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

Weekend Snow
By Robert L. Korty

A storm that swept across the country this week will reroute and intensify off the Mid-Atlantic coast this afternoon. As it heads northeast, it will send snow and heavy rain into two areas in the upper Midwest.

Snow will develop late Friday night, but may mix with sleet and rain and taper in intensity Saturday morning. Afternoon precipitation should become more widespread to all areas of the forecast area, with snow temperatures falling to near freezing throughout the afternoon.

Snowfall will be heaviest Saturday night into Sunday morning, with accumulations of 6 to 12 inches across the northern and central parts of the state.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy. High 32°F (0°C).
Tonight: Snow. Low 25°F (-4°C).
Saturday: Snow and sleet early, becoming heavy and all snow during the afternoon. High 39°F (4°C), dropping into the 20s F (-1°C) late.
Saturday night: Snow, heavy at times. Low 25°F (-4°C).
Sunday: Becoming partly cloudy. High 36°F (2°C).

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

By Michael Janofsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES
ARLINGTON, VA.

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

In fact, it was a marketplace of sorts, just off the lobby of a Sheraton hotel here, but one with a specific purpose: More than 400 people from 30 countries had gathered Wednesday and Thursday for a conference focusing on how to rebuild Iraq and get a piece of the $18.3 billion Congress has authorized for the effort.

There were bankers, architects, lawyers, engineers, real estate developers, insurance agents, construction specialists, transportation experts, communication company owners, investment counselors and more than 40 Iraqi officials working with the Coalition Provisional Authority, who were there to meet as many suitors as possible.

If the participants conveyed a common message it was this: Despite suicide bombers, snipers and sneak attacks in the outlook for poneraltists, Iraq is open for business.

There were sobering reminders of the daily dangers that confront both military personnel and civilians, but one company selling vehicle armor protection and another selling walls so strong that they withstand 80,000 pounds. "We're working on one now that will be able to sustain shoulder-fired rocket attack," said Prentice Perry, vice president of the wall company, Thermashield Steel. The company motto, he said, is, "We stand behind our walls."

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

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

A 425-million-year-old fossil found in Lombardy, Italy, may be the sharpest indication yet that the ancient creature was a key to the evolution of higher life forms than anything else that has ever lived. The fossil, a large spine-covered animal that is up to 80% larger than its body parts, is considered definitive.

The fossil, known as a siveter, was described in the journal Nature by a team of scientists from the University of Bologna, led by Giuseppe Scali. The team discovered the fossil while searching for evidence of the early evolution of vertebrates, which are animals with backbones.

The fossil is a key to understanding the evolution of higher life forms because it provides evidence of the first appearance of vertebrates. The fossil was discovered in the Alps, a region that is known for its rich fossil record.

The fossil was found in a limestone deposit that is over 400 million years old. The team used a combination of geological and biological methods to identify the fossil, which they believe is a member of a group of animals known as ostracodes.

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The fossil is also significant because it provides evidence of the first appearance of vertebrates, which are animals with backbones. The fossil was discovered in the Alps, a region that is known for its rich fossil record.
Research shows unhappy people are more susceptible to colds...
A Matter of Conviction

Chen Zhao

Now, I'm as much a loyal Democrat as the next person and I reflexively cringe when criticism is directed towards the party or a Democratic politician. I am also cynical enough to believe that many Democrats are among the most opportunistic people on the face of the planet and that only the most ideologically committed people stick to their principles all the time. However, I believe that the Democrats need to step screwing around and take a firm position.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts recently ruled that bans on gay marriage or gay marriage in the Commonwealth is unconstitutional. This decision has caused many ripples in the planet and that only the most ideologically committed people stick to their principles all the time. However, I believe that the Democrats need to take a firm position.

Governor Mitt Romney said that he would help perform a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple. Needless to say, Sharpton also has a word "penis" on television, and string bikinis only ends up pleasing no one.

While Sharpton may not be the ideal candidate, many others are more than capable of giving about their grouping numerous popular unintelligent people until after the election. The majority of Americans may not be in favor of gay marriages now, but think of everything that the majority of Americans are in favor of. The major point is: nothing is really acceptable now. Just to name a few: integrated schools, women's rights, saying the word "penis" on television, and string bikinis.

In the near future, these candidates may very well have to reexamine their current opinions and appear to contradict themselves. Where look where indecisive John is going. It seems worth trying to please everyone, one usually turns a good 150 degrees or so and decided what I thought should be in the paper.

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

Revitalizing On-Campus Buildings

Pius Uzamere and Jacob Faber

MIT is revitalizing the east side of campus by adding emerging academic centers, including the Media Lab Sloan School of Management, along with the new brain and learning trajectory. In addition, the Media Lab and Sloan School of Management, along with the new brain and learning trajectory, is widely considered to be one of the most important projects to be completed in the future development of the MIT campus. The Media Lab and Sloan School of Management, along with the new brain and learning trajectory, is widely considered to be one of the most important projects to be completed in the future development of the MIT campus.

Unfortunately, amidst MIT's blitz of new buildings, one portion of the east side of campus, there is a lack of commensurate investment in student life facilities and community space.

The east side has been receiving new academic buildings within a week or more all the time, and dining option upgrades have tended to land west of Massachusetts Avenue. The dormitories and the community spaces are overdue for a major overhaul. Even the Student Center House is home to hundreds of undergraduates. The needs of this community must be addressed.

Certainly, with the State Center promised to open in the spring of 2004, the area around 60 Mass Ave near the library, archives, and many other programs that will directly impact student lives. However, it is still not quite enough. The Walker Memorial building offers a fantastic opportunity, particularly now that the student center is under construction.

The Walker Memorial building has served as the common and entertainment space of the MIT community. As our current and future students, we all have a great role in the future development of the MIT community. As our current and future students, we all have a great role in the future development of the MIT community.

We would like to see an investment in student lounge space. The effect of the simple, open space of the Student Center is that it is difficult to find seating. The Walker Memorial building offers a fantastic opportunity, particularly now that the student center is under construction.

The Association of Student Activities has been advocating for more social space for a long time now. The number of undergraduate and graduate student groups has increased greatly and continues to do so. Many of these groups need space to run their operations and store their equipment, and many or their various functions. There must be an investment in such a space. The Walker Memorial building is conveniently located for a particular space. Many other obvious possibilities. The Walker Memorial building houses a substantial investment in the undergraduate Association's senator representing off-campus students, Katherine Allen, is working on finding a kitchen space that could be used during the day by undergraduate students. As our current and future students, we all have a great role in the future development of the MIT community. As our current and future students, we all have a great role in the future development of the MIT community.

The Ombudsman

At the News Assignment Process

John A. Hawthkinson

I've heard criticism of recent Tech issues, suggesting that there hasn't been enough mention of news. Last issue's news stories were: "Students Should Get Flu Shot, MIT Offers Vaccination" (for example, 59 percent according to a poll.) The Republi-
On Being Shot (In the Head)

Michael Borocke

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

The large union march against the FTAA organized by Teamsters, Steelworkers, and AFL-CIO members had ended in the late afternoon on Thursday. The unionists then went to an amphitheater, leaving the more radical demonstrators on the street. Earlier, the police had diverted the march from its permitted route, resulting in a march through Miami’s industrial sector. Many felt disappointed that people were bringing our message of resistance to corporate-driven so-called “free trade” to a bunch of cement blocks — it was the police that initiated what some would call an attack, and others would call riot control. When the tear gas did not disperse the demonstrators, police began marching to move the crowd back physically. Some cops had large wooden batons, and some had riot shields. They carried various types of arms, including paintball guns, rifles, and a gun with a large barrel that I could have mistaken for a grenade launcher if I didn’t know better.

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

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

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

If the tactics used by police were excessive, the reporting done by the media was complicit. Before the protest, Miami journalists had stated on television that they were going to embed themselves with the police and cover the story from there. On the night of the demonstration, the media framed the clash as they have many others, claiming that the majority of protesters were peaceful, a minority were violent, and the police used appropriate force on these latter protesters. Reports cut to clips of police showing journalists a cache of weapons allegedly taken from anarchist protesters: a double-bladed knife, bottles of urine, metal nuts, and slingshots. Other newscasts focused on the injuries of a few policemen suffered during the demonstrations, with scenes of a policeman in the hospital, having strained his back while keeping the peace.

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

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

Michael Borocke is a member of the class of 2001.

Got an opinion?

Be Proud

Write for The Tech!

letters@the-tech.mit.edu
My boyfriend is in 500 miles away and I said he might come on me. There’s no question that a long distance relationship can be twenty-four hours around the world, but I’ve managed to do it through one, and it’s not exactly a walk in the park. Several times, why not just get themselves into this increasingly common situation?

Well, in college, it’s simple. Most of the time you’ll try to keep the flame burning as long as possible from a relationship you’ve carried over from high school. In other cases, you’ll meet someone from out of town who’s looking for something similar. That’s how you get to know someone — and someone “smart, outgoing, attractive, well-read, into guys who come flowerless, but gentle-roses. Indeed, I had made a fuss in the past about improved taste, quality, and freshness of genuine products on campus, vending machines have been set up in prime locations — the fifth floor of the Student Center. At midnight, a candy bar with the Student Center. At midnight, a candy bar with the environment: you need to buy those products.

**Scratch Paper**

**Why MIT Makes Us Fat**

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen

It’s dinner time and you’re hungry. The stir fry will be ready in just 50$; so you look for cheaper options. At Alpine Burg, you choose between the $4.99 large salad that’s healthy, and the $5.50 chicken salad. Guilty because of your after-Thanksgiving splurge at the mall, you go for the green bur- 155...
By Nutty B (Columnist)

Nutty B is currently a graduate student at MIT. Email e-mail to nutty and he'll write back with whatever question you would like someone to listen to, and possibly pump her/him for answers to. Can ask him to help me with some all questions and he'll be happy.

Dear Nutty B,

I am a new reader of your column. You seem to be a very funny, and I love what you are talking about, so I am going to give this a shot. There is this girl in one of my classes that I really like, and she likes me, too.

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

-Teddy Bear

Dear Teddy Bear,

Mrs. Someone who knows what he is talking about? Are you sure you don't mean to send your question to Dear Abby? This is probably the nicest and most unrelenting: compliment I have received, but thank you just the same. I am going to be kind of the way welcome to the Nutty B fan club.

What's up? Nothing but the sky is! It is such a beautiful day, and you can see a beautiful sky with all the clouds and the sun shining through them. I am sure most ladies, at least those who work for PM Master Nurse, are going to be sophisticated enough to detect this kind of fame pickup line. If you know her like, and you know she is going to be around, you might want to give her a quick text.

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

Best,

Dear Mrs. Johnson

I am truly flattered that despite my being a "same." woman, you still think I am attractive enough to send junk email to my inbox. Were you also the one that said that I am so much more than your evil, and to subscribe me to the daily porn newsletter?

Thank you for your thorough introduction. It is nice to know that you are interested in me, and not just that I am a friend.

I will be more than willing to help you. However, I have a solution that is much better. I know that you are going to give her all the money and let her marry your daughter. You see, I am the Prince of Canada, and by giving her all the money, you can be sure of a quality of the royal lineage.

Also, when I become a member of your family, you won't have to worry about giving me Swiss Bank money. I will send you my Swiss Bank offer of $2 billion. You can use the resources around you to make your life as simple as you can. You are the owner of your life and you should enjoy it!

Best,

Dear Nutty B,

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

Dear Depressed at MIT,

Sending e-mail outside of this situation is an option that is workable and serious. Depression can be debilitating but not go away on its own by the mere fact. It affects you personally but does not involve other people. It can be felt as the depression isn't related to anything in particular, but talking about it in a certain situation might help bring out specific causes. If you have a better idea of the causes and of your options, you can decide what you want to do.

Since seasonal and depressive depressions are real, and talking to a therapist or counselor soon may be helpful in either case. It can help in understanding whether you have a rooting of depression and opens a door which can be useful if these feelings, last or recur.

Best,

BY KARYN PATEL

Columnist

Well readers, let me commen on the column "A Bit Off" that has been here for a while. I started winning about lack of love. As the end of the term draws near, I felt that you could use as many of these e-mails as possible with hopes that you will be able to enjoy these more during the holiday break and IAP.

Hey Akshay?

How are you doing? I was surfing around and read your column about men and women. I am sorry that you were not able to find any. I hope that you will be happy with your mother.

Yes, there is, I know it, the American people know it. Stop doing the same, jock, and just accept it, eh? That's all about it.

On a more serious note, anyone who has engaged in conversation with me in a quick and happy mood will tell you that "eh" regularly is, "It's a wonderful... sound? And I'm not even from Canada! Though I have been there, it is infectious? Trust me, my Canadian cousins will love it. Remember kids, always wash your hands after reading. "That eh? "Cuz there ain't no Canadian accent reading. "That eh?"

I could not hold my tongue after started whining about lack of love. As the end is near, I feel obliged to offer of $2 billion is rather paltry when compared to what you ever feel the need to talk to someone who understands this. nutty b would like to thank all of you wonderful readers for your support and letters. It is nice to know that Nutty B

Also, when I become a member of your family, you won't have to worry about giving me Swiss Bank money. I will send you my Swiss Bank offer of $2 billion. You can use the resources around you to make your life as simple as you can. You are the owner of your life and you should enjoy it!

Best,

As for Olympic sport - this weekly trainings should not be missed. You have missed a few, but there is still time to do something. For instance, was your mother ever so sore into the "positive" side of the column. "A Bit Off" is part of the punchline for some geeky jokes that I spied you, the reader.

I want to say the holiday season falls pri-alteration to this. It is hard to find a good joke. It gives me an excuse not to worry about work and to enjoy the day. For instance, you ever feel the need to talk to someone who understands this.

We will see you around dressed up like cartoon characters - yeah, that's really our way of doing business during the sixties sixty of exhilarating comfort fun.

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

The gap next door

At least I can pronounce "California" now.

Do you miss those days when people really meant it when they said, "I need someone who is able to take care of these funds in a secure fashion. I am not looking for some bright individual who is urging you, the e-mail sending citizens of this country to send e-mail to a person who absolutely, positively, completely, and mildly amusing. If I had come up with an offer of $2 billion is rather paltry in comparison. I not only agreed to help, but I am happy for you. So when you get a porn newsletter, better to be able to have some enter-". Did you get that turn to complete some killer alliteration. But I didn't, because the matter before us is one that warrants the fullest attention and utmost concern. So please, for your children's children.

For information, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345

Sponsored by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable for more information, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345

The space is sponsored by The Tech
December 5, 2003

Hay Fever

December 5, 2003

by Qian Wang & Jennifer Peng

TRIO

Well, Bobby, what do you think of my dorm room? Sorry if it's a little messy...

Holy Macarena! A "LITTLE" messy?!

Ugh! You actually LIVE in here? This is ridiculous! Clothes and papers and junk are EVERYWHERE! And what's that funny smell?

Sniff, sniff...hmm...I think that might be the smell of my Thanksgiving leftovers...

Well, your leftovers smell like they've gone bad. You should probably take them out of the fridge and throw them away!

"Fridge"?

Moral of the story: when 8 day old turkey goes bad, it goes BAD!

There's always 4 years later

Ever notice how Howard Dean says the dumbest things at the worst times?

My fellow Americans, it has been said that no Democrat can beat George W. Bush. I tell you today that if I'm your man in November, I will stick it to him like Kobe. Stick it to that white chick.

Well, there goes the party.

Ctrl-Alt-Del

Hey, what are you guys eating?

Pet Llama...

by Ali Ghajarnia
Fascist Popsicle Stand

Dad, I think I’m surrounded.

So you can’t fall for Carhartt’s propaganda. You’re just trying to scare me into buying the latest pad. In two years, you’re gonna be up in arms. Truth is, it doesn’t matter what you wear down there.

Why’s that, Son?

I’ve heard they can lower your sperm count.

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

WHAT’S THIS?

I found it on the computer and printed out copies to include with the Christmas cards. It’s a huge time-saver.

WHAT?

Son, I’m sure we’ll totally argue these things again.

WHAT?

I mean, this is so old.

Paper cut!

WHAT HAPPENED?

Let me see. That one in the envelope before your Christmas cards?

THE ENVELOPES ARE ALL SEAMED, SEAPED, AND GET ME A F#CKING X-RAY "WOPPERS" IN THAT ENVELOPE.

YOU’VE GOT A BAD CASE OF CARPAL PUNCHEL SYNDROME.

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

I RECOMMEND THAT WE BREAK INTO SUB-GROUPS TO CREATE A PROCESS FOR CHOOSING OUR NEXT MEETING TIME.

WHAT?

This apple will remind us of our core values: respect, customer service, and teamwork.

THE APPE’S CORE IS THE PART YOU THROW AWAY.

THE FAMILY IS THE PART YOU STUFF THEM.

YOU’VE GOTTEN A BAD CASE OF CARPAL PUNCHEL SYNDROME.

DON’T USE YOUR "FIST OF DEATH" FOR A FEW WEEKS.

THE "FOOT OF DEATH" IS NOT THE SAME.

IT IS ONLY SLIGHTLY MENACING.

An unlocked gun could be the death of your family. Please lock up your gun.

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This space donated by The Tech.
Events Calendar

Friday, December 5
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Holiday Craft Fair. Tech Community Crafts sale. Free. Room: 32-455. Sponsor: Activities Board.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Christmas Carol Making. Main is a bit of fun, and one for the choir. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Center for Christian and Jewish Life.
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Cocktails & Holiday Shopping. Free. Room: Kresge & Museum.
Saturdays and Sundays December 6-7
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Webworkshop - Building a Web Presence. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: Information Technologies.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Milton Academy. Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro.
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Family Holography Studio. Families explore the fascinating world of 2D projection and learn to make holograms. Free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Kresge, MIT Museum.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Mechanics Seminar: Focusing In the Crumpling Process: How Pressure Creates the Continuity of Volume. Free. Room: E51-495. Sponsor: STS.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Holiday Dinner. Celebrate Shabbat. MIT Hillel's three reli.
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. - 1st Annual MIT Energy Conference. Free. Room: Kresge, MIT Museum.
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab Open House. Free. Room: 7-100. Sponsor: Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab.

Sunday, December 7
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Varsity Rifle JORC. Free. Room: 5-310. Sponsor: Rifle Team.
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Tang Hall Bash. Free. Room: Tang Hall Residents Association.
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Murphy Booth. Free. Room: Student Center. Sponsor: Visiting Scholars.
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Malaysia Day. Free. Room: Simmons Hall Multiple Purpose Room. Sponsor: Singapore Students Society, MITSSS, GSC Funding Board.
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - House and Garden Tour. Free. Room: 30-151. Sponsor: Real Estate Office.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Wheelchair Dance Lessons. No partner required. Free. Room: 9-440. Sponsor: Bike|Walk.
1:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Nach Mundo. Free. Room: Rockwell Hall. Sponsor: Tufts University.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - 3-Plano Chamber Music Society Concert. Free. Room: Kresge Auditorium.
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - International Folk Dancing (participatory). Our repertoire includes dances from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, and Italy), as well as from the Soviet Union and the world of the former Soviet Union (Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, etc.). The folk dances from the Soviet Union are music of the Far East, Muslims, and people of other faiths. Some of the interpretations are extremely interesting.
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - MIT Wind Ensemble. Frederick Harris, music director. Bach's "The Art of Fugue," Shostakovich's "Festive Overture;" Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde"; and music for Korean and Palestinian ensembles. All of the above performed in the Program in Atmospheres, Orient, and Culture at MIT. We shall also enjoy an encore!
We're good at fitting people to jobs.

And jobs to people.

It wouldn't be clear to every firm that a man with an M.F.A. in poetry was the right choice to head an automated block trading unit. Or that a designer of solar-powered race cars was the right woman to help launch a new venture in computational chemistry. But after we talked to them, it was clear to us.

The D. E. Shaw group is an investment and technology development firm. Since 1988 we've grown into a $5 billion in aggregate capital by hiring smart people from a wide range of backgrounds and letting them implement-and manage-what they invent.

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The D. E. Shaw group will conduct on-campus interviews on Thursday, February 12. To apply, log on to http://web.mit.edu/careers/deshaw seniors. If this isn't possible, please send a resume and cover letter stating your GPA and standardized test scores, broken down by section where applicable, to oncampus@deshaw.com. All applications must be received by January 19.
Dine In or take out!

December 5, 2003

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http://www.indiaqualityrest.com

Serving the Kenmore Square area for the past 20 years. 484 Commonwealth Ave., Boston Near Kenmore T station in Kenmore Sq. 617-267-4499

Top Rated Indian Restaurant in the Boston Area Zagat's Survey 2003-4

Cane and bring your friends to experience the wide variety of authentic North Indian Cuisine and relaxed atmosphere of India Quality Restaurant. Tandoori specialties and breads from Tandoor are also available. Luncheon specials vary from $4.95-$6.95 (11:30am-3pm) and Daily Dinner Specials from $7.95-$11.95 (5pm-11pm). Special Breads $1.95-$3.95 (stuffed with spinach, potatoes, meat, garlic, onion, mint). Great selection of beer and wine.

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Serving the Kenmore Square area for the past 20 years. 484 Commonwealth Ave., Boston Near Kenmore T station in Kenmore Sq. 617-267-4499

Top Rated Indian Restaurant in the Boston Area Zagat’s Survey 2003-4

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Syllabus fall 2003

8th Annual Boston Area Conference
December 8-10, 2003 Hyatt Regency Cambridge

Walk-up registration opens Monday, December 8 at 7:30 a.m.

Keynotes by:
- William J. Mitchell — Dean, MIT School of Architecture and Planning
- Graham Spanier, Ph.D. — President, Penn State University

PLUS
Conference Tracks Aligned to Key Campus Technology Issues, Seminars, Panel Discussions, Networking and Vendor Fair

For complete details go to www.syllabus.com/fall2003
You are cordially invited to an Advent service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 10
5:15 in the MIT Chapel

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

Sponsored by the Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry
at MIT
http://web.mit.edu/lem/www/

MIT Campus Closing
A ‘One Time Affair’

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make new friends.

MIT Synthetic Biology Lab
http://polkadots.mit.edu/
Religion in the Lord of the Rings:

RELOADED

Friday 12-05-03 at 7:30pm
A presentation by Dr. Peter Kreeft, professor of Philosophy at Boston College.

FOOD and PRIZES - DVD, BOOKS, POSTERS!

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Questions? mit-xa-request@mit.edu
THE CIS STARR FORUM
MIT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
and The Boston Review

"Iraq: What Now?"

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

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

Wong Auditorium
E51 (Tang Center, 70 Memorial Drive)
starrforum@mit.edu

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

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Visit and apply online at: www.morganstanley.com/careers

Morgan Stanley Asia Pacific Invites You...
Endowment Increase Marks Vest’s Tenure

Vest, from Page 1

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

In 1994, Vest encouraged an internal study on discrimination against women faculty in the School of Science (“Just do it,” Vest report-
edly said).

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

In 2003, MIT led a group of schools as a “friend of the court” in the Supreme Court’s examination of affirmative action in university admissions with a forceful, and ulti-

The Tech
December 5, 2003

four plans unclear

was not clear last night exactly what Vest planned to announce
today, and whether he would return
to teaching. (He is a professor of mechanical engineering.)

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

Vest is expected to stay through the summer or until a successor is
d. (No matter how much of it you have left.)

Fair skin, light eyes and a tendency

will keep RSI from getting worse.”

Even though RSI prevention and early symptoms are
important, Price says, “I ended up writing a 20-page
paper using voice recognition.”

Insurance experts emphasize. “Medications and bracing may mask
symptoms temporarily, but only primary interventions to
avoid injury will keep RSI from getting worse.”

After giving her injury time to heal, modifying her work-
habits, and changing her work habits, Price has recovered
almost completely. “I’ve learned to keep my wrists high
and use voice recognition.”

Price initially responded to her symptoms by trying to type
less but found it hard to keep up with class work.

Eventually she was referred to MIT’s ATIC (Adaptive
Technology for Information and Computing) Lab, where
she learned more about ergonomic positioning and
workstation set-up. She was also able to try out adaptive
hardware and software. “I ended up writing a 20-page
paper using voice recognition,” Price says. “It’s the only
way I could have written that paper at that point.”

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

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

Price encourages other MIT students to learn more about
sue damage from RSI happens quickly but takes a long
time to heal. I know now that if I type in an awful position
for two hours, it can take my wrists two weeks to recover.”

Learn more about RSI and on-campus RSI resources at
Combat tested.

join@the-tech.mit.edu

W20-483, x3-1541
MIT Students, Administrators Respond to Study on Drinking

Alcohol, from Page 1

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

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

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

MIT students respond to study

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

These numbers seem a little low for freshmen Irene S. Tobias '07 and Heather D. Coffin '07. Although Coffin herself drinks very little, she has seen plenty of drinking among the freshmen class.

When asked if the findings of the Harvard School of Public Health study made sense for the MIT community, she shook her head.

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

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

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

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

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

The Harvard study also makes sense to Trujillo.

"Some incoming students come with an established pattern of drinking, and some increase their drinking once arriving on the college campus," said Trujillo. "The first semester, even the first six weeks of a student's college career can really set certain patterns of behavior."

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

'Binge drinking' is 'controversial'

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

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

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

According to estimates from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 1,400 college students die each year from alcohol-related injuries. In addition, research has shown that binge drinking is associated with lower grades, vandalism, and physical and sexual violence in students.
Andrea J. Dooley '06 looks beyond an Emmanuel College defender during Tuesday's varsity basketball game.

Unfortunately for children living in some of the poorest countries in the world, it takes more than fleeting words on a wall. Childreach, one of the oldest and largest child sponsorship organizations, measures growth by the number of hospitals, wells for clean water, and self-help programs we build in partnership with the proud families and communities where our sponsored children live.

For more information about Childreach, please call 1-800-752-3400 or visit the Childreach website.

MIT Arab Students' Organization proudly presents:

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on evening of music tradition and high culture

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Lobdell Hall,
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Tickets:
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$12 non-students.
Door tickets:
$5 students (w/ ID), $8 non-students,
$12 non-students.

Event sponsored by the MIT Arab Student Organization and Green Hall.

Underwritten by a Distinguished Grant from the Council for the Arts of MIT, the MIT Club of Saudi Arabia, the Office of the Dean for Student Life/Dean for Undergraduate Education, and the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.