**MIT Denies Wrongful Death in Guy Lawsuit**

*By Kathleen L. Dobson*

MIT has finally answered the wrongful death lawsuit filed by the parents of Richard A. Guy Jr. ‘99, denying that the Institute knew about drug use at East Campus or caused Guy’s 1999 death, which came as a result of his nitrous oxide abuse at the dormitory.

The Guys, who are one of three fraternities seeking to hold MIT responsible for a student’s on-campus death, sued MIT in August 2002, one day before the three-year statute of limitations would have expired.

Their lawsuit is peculiar. Unlike the plaintiffs in MIT’s other wrongful death lawsuits, the Guys have not asked for a particular amount of damages, have declined to speak with the press, and have made no attempt to get around the $20,000 statutory limit on damages that MIT can be required to pay in wrongful death cases.

That, and the fact that the Guys allowed MIT to delay its answer for 14 months, led to speculation that not much should be inferred from MIT’s answer. It wouldn’t be hard for the Guys to amend the lawsuit to include more money or name more people as defendants, he said.

The Guys’ lawyers declined to comment.

MIT says it didn’t know of drugs.

In its response, MIT admits that in late August 1999, Guy had “engaged in experimental drug use and had sought treatment and counseling from MIT’s medical and health service staff for this problem.” However, MIT denies that it knew or should have known that drug use was ongoing at East Campus.

The complaint refers to the “appearance of a dorm room, where the walls and ceilings of part of the 5th floor were painted black and light bulbs painted pink and purple” as evidence of ongoing drug use at Fifth East. MIT also denies that non-student drug users were allowed to live on the 5th floor, as the Guys alleged.

In addition, MIT denies that it knew or should have known that the residents of East Campus “kept a canister of nitrous oxide in their room referred to as ‘the dorm bottle’ of nitrous oxide at the dormitory.”

MIT also denies the Guys’ lawsuit that it did not take “reasonable steps” to secure canisters of nitrous oxide used for “valid scientific purposes,” allowing “unauthorized persons, including non-students and employees, to have access to the dangerous gas and to use it as an intoxicant.”

*Laughter, Page 14*

**MIT Responds To Tucap’ Allegations**

*By Waseem S. Daher*

MIT responded last Thursday to a subpoena from Paramount Pictures asking who was responsible for a computer at the Civil and Environmental Engineering headquarters that allegedly distributed an illegal copy of the film “Tucap: Resurrection” at 1:40 a.m. on Dec. 4.

The Institute did not make its response available. But it appears likely that MIT told Paramount of what seems to be the software and professional puzzle solvers, found the coin, the periuenal goal of the hunt, at 8:23 a.m. on Monday morning, thus winning the hunt and the right to create next year’s hunt. At just over 68 hours, this hunt was the longest on record.

Action Before Thought

My team, Action Before Thought, was a medium-sized team mostly comprised of residents of Third West of East Campus. We collected our laptops and gathered in our dorm lounge shortly after noon on Friday to begin working on the first round of puzzles.

Less than a day into the hunt our lounge began to resemble a disaster area, with papers strewn about and laptop cords monopolizing the right of way. After a while we established a “Time Out” area where students could safely work in peace.

Members of the Mystery Hunt team “Action Before Thought” solve puzzles in their headquarters, located in the lounge on Third West in East Campus. This year’s hunt was won by “Setec Astronomy” and was the longest on record.

**Fire at Beta Theta Pi Destroys Top Floor, Frat Moves to Annex**

*By Ray C. He*

A fire at Beta Theta Pi caused more than $100,000 in damages to one of the fraternity’s two houses late Friday night, according to the Boston Fire Department.

No one was hurt in the fire, which was contained on the fourth floor of the building, said fire department spokesman David Walsh.

The building, located at 119 Bay State Road, was empty because pipes had burst the night before, disabling the sprinkler and heating systems, said Herman Marshall ‘78, BTP’s alumni board president.

“There were no brothers in the house at the time,” he said. “They had moved to the annex because we didn’t have heat in the main house because the pipes had been freezing,” he said.

Cause of fire unknown

“The cause of the fire in the empty BTP house is unknown. ‘Whether it was a space heater or not, we’re not sure. That’s still under investigation,’ said David N. Rogers, the director of fraternities, sororities and independent living groups.”

“The cause of the fire is under investiga- tion at the time,” Walsh said. The fire is being investigated by the Boston Fire Department’s Fire Investigation Unit.

The fraternity’s insurance company Fire, Page 13

A burned-out bay window on the fourth floor of the Beta Theta Pi fra- ternity house overlooks Storrow Drive. A Friday night fire caused more than $100,000 in damages.

**Setec Astronomy Wins French Armada’s Mystery Hunt, Sixty-Eight Hour Longest in Recent Memory**

*By Marissa Vogt*

The 25th annual IAP Mystery Hunt, Banned in Thought, was a medium-sized team mostly comprised of residents of East Campus. This year’s hunt was the longest on record.

The hunt was run by the French Armada, the East Campus-based team that won last year’s hunt, Setec Astronomy, a team of MIT alumni and professional puzzle solvers, found the coin, the peren- ianal goal of the hunt, at 8:23 a.m. on Monday morning, thus winning the hunt and the right to create next year’s hunt. At just over 68 hours, this hunt was the longest on record.

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**Bush Vows to Privatize Social Security and Keep Tax Cuts**

By Edmund L. Andrews

President Bush hit at big plans on Tuesday about overweighting Social Security and reiterated demands to make the last rounds of tax cuts per-

manently, but he made only fleeting refer-

ences to new initiatives.

Alluding to his oft-stated goal of privatizing Social Security, Bush said that “younger workers should have the opportunity to build a nest egg by sav-

ing part of their Social Security taxes in a personal retirement account.”

But Bush is not expected to pro-

pose an immediate shift away from Social Security in his pending budget proposal. Rather, administration offi-


ciels say they plan to recycle a propos-

al from last year to greatly expand tax-

advantaged savings accounts.

Bush’s limited agenda reflects the pressure he is under, from conserva-

tives as well as Demo-

crats, to rein in a budget deficit that could approach $300 billion this year.

Though Bush demanded that Con-

gress make last year’s tax cuts perma-

nent, he repeated recent pledges to reduce the deficit by half over the next five years and hold the growth in dis-

cretionary spending to 4 percent a year.

The administration’s proposals for new tax-advantaged savings plans — one for retirement, another for sav-

ings for any purpose — have the po-

tential to top $1 trillion over the next decade, according to esti-

mates from last year by the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal 

and Budget Policy.

The problem, some economists say, is that the proposals would do lit-

tle in themselves to solve the basic long-term problem of Social Security, which is that the so-called trust fund faces eventual insolvency as the nation’s 75 million baby boomers reach retirement age over the next sev-

eral decades.

And over the longer term, they say, the proposed savings accounts could contain trillions of dollars a year as more and more of the nation’s invest-

ment income became entirely sheltered from taxation.

Many experts, Republican and Democratic, predict that Bush will

make only limited progress on major tax initiatives this year.

Making the tax cuts permanent would cost more than $51 trillion over the next decade, according to esti-

mates from last summer by the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal 

and Budget Policy, and none of the recent tax cuts expire in the next year.

“I don’t see them pushing on any-

thing hard except possibly a half-

hearted effort to make the tax cuts per-

manent,” said Bruce Bartlett, a longtime Republican tax expert who is a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, a policy research group.

Economists at the Brookings Insti-

tution estimated that, 25 years from now, the new savings accounts could cost the U.S. Treasury $50 billion a year in lost tax revenue.

Under the proposals first put for-

ward one year ago, a married couple would have been able to set aside up to $15,000 a year in a “lifetime sav-

ings account” and as much as $15,000 more in the “retirement” accounts.

Last year, congressional Republi-

cans convinced the White House to back away from both proposals, large-

ly because they were trying to push Bush’s big tax-cutting plan at the time.

**U.S. Group Says North Koreans Are Eager to Deal With West**

By Jim Rutenberg

The leader of an unofficial U.S. delegation that visited North Korea this week said on Tuesday that North Korea seemed anxious to resolve differences with the United States over its nuclear program.

North Korean officials told the delegation that the Bush admin-

istration’s current central concern, complete and verifiable dismantlement of their nuclear weapons program, was within reach, said John W. Lewis, a professor emeritus of Chinese politics at Stanford, is scheduled to tell the Senate of his conclusions about the state of the nuclear complex in Yongbyon that was the focus of the group’s visit.

Lewis, a professor emeritus of Chinese politics at Stanford, is the former director of the National Intelligence Council.

The visit to Stanford, which seeks to influence policy by engaging for-

eign officials and citizens on a second track, independent of the U.S. government. In this case, he led a delegation of civilian experts to North Korea, in advance of a delayed second round of six-nation talks to try to defuse the threat that North Korea might

six-nation talks to try to defuse the threat that North Korea might

atomic bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan, had told investigators that any

army commander had approved the transfer of technology to Iran.

On Tuesday, concern about a gathering of midlevel Taliban fighters.

But Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, said at a news conference on Tuesday that coalition forces had engaged “five armed adult males freeing from a known terrorist compound” after discovering intelligence on Saturday evening about a gathering of midlevel Taliban fighters.

**Weather**

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, January 21, 2004

**Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, January 21, 2004**

**Extended Forecast**


Thursday: Becoming cloudy. Low near 17°F (-8°C).

Friday: Scattered snow showers, high 32°F (0°C).

Saturday: Sunny but windy and colder. High 22°F (-6°C), low 10°F (-12°C).

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Scientists Encounter Bumps Over Explores Martian Land

By Andrew Pollack

January 21, 2004

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The room went wild when Spirit hit the Martian dirt. With six wheels on the bluish-colored surface Thursday morning, scientists at mission control here traded high fives and hugs. But there was still trouble ahead. No one could agree where it should go next.

Chief scientist Steve Squyres wanted the rover to investigate a pyramidal-shaped rock nearby. Some geologists had their hearts set on a far-off crater. And the mission’s engineers wanted the rover to stay put so they could test its instruments for three days.

After three painstaking years of building, launching, and precisely landing the spacecraft in Gusev Crater, the rest of the $810 million rover’s itinerary is a blank page. And with Spirit’s life span expected to be just a few months, each decision is loaded with urgency.

“Where we are going is a fundamental question, and it can get emotional,” said John Grotzinger, 46, an MIT sedimentologist helping to figure out where the rover should go.

In NASA’s ambitious new quest to find signs of past water on the Red Planet, control of the vehicle now largely rests with a 50-member science team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The team includes geologists, analysts, and others — each of them a specialist who sees Spirit as key to unlocking a different part of the Mars mystery.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has established a few rules of the road. Spirit should travel at least 1,000 feet during its mission. It should visit at least four “localities,” although scientists aren’t exactly sure what constitutes a locality. But those guidelines leave most of the mission up in the air. Going to a distant cluster of rocks may reveal round boulders put there by rivers. Checking out the lip of a crater may show layers of sediment that could point to liquid water. And in the simplest near-by rocks, minerals could show they were formed in the presence of water.

China Reports Annual Economic Growth of Nine Percent

THE NEW YORK TIMES

China’s economy grew a torrid 9.1 percent last year and prices accelerated, Chinese officials said on Tuesday, but they denied that the country’s economy was overheating.

The National Bureau of Statistics said that economic output jumped 9.9 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier. Joan Zheng, an economist at J.P. Morgan Chase, noted that the Chinese agency appeared to have revised upward its figures for year-to-year growth in the first and third quarters as well, to 9.9 percent and 9.6 percent.

Li Deshu, the director of the statistics agency, said at a news conference in Beijing that last year’s growth was the fastest since 1997, and predicted that the economy would grow more than 7 percent this year.

Li calculated that China had become a large consumer of raw materials, taking in 30 percent of the world’s coal production last year. 36 percent of the world’s steel and 55 percent of the world’s cement, and acknowledged that prices for steel and cement were on the rise.

Study Finds No Foolproof Way to Contain Altered Genes From Wild

By Andrew Pollack

A new report commissioned by the government suggests that it will be difficult to completely prevent genetically engineered plants and animals from having unintended environmental and public health effects.

The report, released Tuesday by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, says that while there are many techniques being developed to prevent genetically engineered organisms or their genes from escaping into the wild, most are still premature and none appear to be completely effective.

Companies and scientists are developing a wide range of genetically modified organisms: salmon that grow superfast, mosquitoes engineered not to transmit malaria, corn that produces pharmaceuticals and industrial chemicals.

One concern about these transgenic products is that their genes or the organisms could spread. Fast-growing fish, if they were to escape into the wild, might beat out regular salmon for food or mates, disrupting the ecological balance. Genes giving crops resistance to herbicides or insects might spread to weeds, making the weeds harder to eradicate.

Pollen flow from corn engineered to produce a drug could allow the drug to get into corn destined for the food supply. Such crops might be given “suicide genes” that contain proteins they would turn out to be civil unions, as in Vermont, rather than standard marriages.

The court gave the state legislature 180 days to make provisions for same-sex couples to have the same rights as heterosexuals, including putting the foreign genes into the chloroplasts rather than the nucleus because chloroplast genes usually do not get into the pollen.

On the pace of this Cape Cod village most years slows to a small-town lull. But on a recent afternoon, Dave Schermacher, a caterer here, stared down at a to-do list that spilled over two pages. Schermacher, who runs Ptown Parties, had been busy since 6:30 a.m., already preparing for nine weddings next summer and fall.

“It’s off the wall,” he said, pouring a mug of half-decaf coffee (the real thing gets him too wired). “I have nine weddings to prepare menus for. I’m building a Web site and revamping my brochures. And I have to reserve chairs, glasses, dishes and silverware now, or they’ll be all booked up.”

Since Massachusetts’ highest court ruled in November that gay couples have a right to marry under the state Constitution, Provincetown — a flamboyant beach community known for its gay friendly atmosphere and nightlife — has been gearing up for an unlikely windfall: the wedding business. Already one inn, the Fairbanks, is offering a $195 “Pop the Question” special.

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The court ruling has Provincetown gearing up for same-sex marriages

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

Gearing Up for Same-Sex Marriages

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To the Editor:

I found the recent article “Hardly Better Than Karaoke” by Devdoot Majumdar (Jan. 14) to be unnecessarily ruthless and offensive. As a student publication, the responsibility of The Tech is to provide fair, unbiased coverage of campus-wide events and issues. This article failed to accomplish this simple goal, and in so doing, discredited the whole tradition of poor reporting in The Tech.

Majumdar is entitled to his opinion, but the review was taken into account and why was this article published? Their personalities have nothing to do with their work, but this article comment indicates that Mr. Majumdar has an aggrandized splendor.” This clearly derivative comment indicates that Mr. Majumdar has never been a fan of the Logs as people, and makes no mention of the Logs’ music. If Mr. Majumdar possesses this bias against the Logs, why was he chosen to write this article? Furthermore, why were his personal biases taken into account and why was this article published? Their personalities have nothing to do with their work, so why was this comment not edited out?

This is not to say that the Logs’ performance was perfect. They made mistakes, as was clear to everyone at the concert. Like any performance group that has stumbled, it is only fair that their mistakes are brought to public attention — that is the purpose of a review. This review, however, took criticism a step too far, and brought in personal biases that were better left out of a new publication. Perhaps The Tech should take more care in assigning articles to biased reporters, and in reviewing these articles before publication.

Lindsay Kuo ’06

Erfata

The Jan. 7 front page photo of the Wright Flyer hack was mistakenly credited to photographer Frank Dubek. The photo was taken by Brian Hemond. A Jan. 14 article (“MIT Lawyers to Respond To Subpoena Over Tapes”) misstated the location of a computer allegedly used for copyright infringement. It is in 1-290 (the Civil and Environmental Engineering headquarters), not 2-190 (a lecture hall).
Ken Nesmith

I have very mixed feelings about President Bush. He does appear to have an honest commitment to responsible values and ideals, and seems less conniving and calculating than the usual politician, even if he may be for lack of ability. It’s a little early to afford him much admiration and respect.

A recent interview of his, with a BBC reporter just before he visited London last fall, made one of his weaknesses particularly visible. As he worked to do the traditional interviewer’s job of finding a way to reshape the questions such that he could use his prepared answers, one could almost hear his advisers coaching him hours earlier, reminding him that “dub,” “dub,” and “right catch phrases.” He would interrupt himself midway through responses to insert sound bites, as if clumishly trying to be the appropriate item to deliver on a particular topic. Spinning through a question about progress in Iraq, he stopped himself mid-sentence to plug one of his favorite lines: “Freedom is not America’s gift to the world, it’s the Almighty’s gift to mankind.” Certainly, it’s a nice line, suggesting inaudible, individual human rights. Plenty of other less dramatic ones popped up alongside it, about “revisiting the Cold War” and the “end of the Cold War.”

Bush is often compared to Ronald Reagan both in terms of style and policies; here, I was reminded of Reagan’s tactic of doing focus testing on certain lines for his speeches, and then platitudes that seemed to reflect our nation’s undoing love of freedom, the economy, and the military. Bush’s lines appeared crafted with similar planning, and his discernible awkardness in finding the right words.

But then, Bush has never been renowned for his speaking ability, or for his speeches. He speaks in very short, choppy sentences, and people sometimes laugh with one suitable for the eyes of children, or at least, not very hard. It’s one of the most difficult trans. confidence for anyone to make, but also one of the most necessary for those who coast on raw talents.

I imagine that every MIT graduate travels the same path, from a feeling of obsessional courage to one of utter fatigue and humiliation — and that’s just in freshman year. Most students here come from the very tops of their classes in high school, find themselves in the pack, and most of them did it without work-
PDFs Rule; Did We Ask Smart Questions About Mun?

Ombudsman, from Page 5

guessing /123 and choosing PDF from the directory listing. I’ve asked the technology department why that’s not linked to from anywhere useful, but they have not responded.

It’s somewhat sobering to think that the question of PDFs has generated the most e-mail from readers on a single topic in my seven months as Ombudsman: four people sent me mail (one is a staff photographer, not just a reader). All four were in favor of PDFs, in the exclusion of the HTML version. Whoa? (I would have expected the peak of communication to me to be over a journalistic issue, not a technical one.)

Two of the four independently suggested that we should have thumbnail images of the front page available, and one suggested that PDFs of the individual articles should be available as well.

The arguments in favor seem to be that PDFs:
- are prettier than HTML;
- accurately reflects the layout of the newspaper (archival value);
- do not omit tables, infographics, or special formatting;
- can go up on the Web faster than the HTML versions.

I haven’t seen any arguments against providing both formats, though PDFs of the entire paper may be difficult to provide when some material in the printed edition is not licensed for online distribution.

Crime and Dong Mun

I was pretty pleased with the news content in last week’s issue: Outstanding photographer Jonathan Wang wrote a good news story on crime. In particular, I was pleased that he talked to MIT Police Chief John DiFava and got useful quotations, especially compared with past police coverage.

For example, in the recent articles about missing MIT student Daniel “Dong” S. Mun ’05, I thought the news department didn’t do a good job of interviewing the MIT police. The original Dec. 9 article (“Student Missing Since Friday”) said the MIT police “could provide no update,” and the follow-up Jan. 7 article (“MIT Student Remains Missing”) said Deputy Chief John Driscoll “referred questions about the investigation to [MIT spokesman Arthur L.] Jones.”

In both cases, I thought a comment from DiFava would have helped, but the news department didn’t seem to follow through.

If you’re wondering what has happened to Mun, you’re not the only one. The Jan. 7 article quotes Jones saying “Everything is ongoing” and says that he says the search “includes periodically checking the river and its banks.” What does “periodically” mean? The next paragraph says Dean Robert M. Randolph “thinks the checks will be done weekly,” which is decidedly uncertain. Is there really any hope at all?

I was also puzzled by the quote from Randolph in the Dec. 17 article in The Boston Globe (“Friends, police search for missing MIT student,” by Marcella Bombardieri): “There are indications he could have harmed himself.” That seemed pretty alarming, especially when coupled with initial rumors from a widely circulated Dec. 6 e-mail that “He was pretty drunk when he left the house.” (I asked the author of that e-mail on Monday, and he said he wasn’t sure it was true but wrote that “so people would take it more seriously,” and that he didn’t remember where the information came from.)

The Jan. 7 article says that when Randolph was “asked about his comment” by the Globe, that “he said that it was not clear what Mun might have done, and that he would not discuss the matter in more detail for privacy reasons.” I asked Randolph to resolve the confusion, and he said (referring to Mun), “He sent a message to his family indicating he was going to do something, but it’s not clear what in fact he was going to do. Subsequent information has not made it any clearer.”

Stories buried deep inside the last issue.

Pages 13 and 14 reprinted two articles from The Boston Globe about MIT. Looking at them, you might think that they were run there just to fill space, but actually they ran because the interim IAP news director Keith J. Winstein felt they were relevant.

The Tech doesn’t do a good job of telling readers about stories that are buried deep inside the paper, and should improve. The World & Nation, Opinion, Fan, and Sports sections all appear in distinctive places and can easily be found. The news articles on the front page are easy to find. Other content does not have it so easy.

The remaining news, features, and arts articles have to vie for a reference in one of the three positions at the bottom of the front page (called “inside boxes”), one of which is reserved for comics (why bother?). That’s great if there are only two such articles, but problematic otherwise.

In last week’s issue, the left inside box led to one of three arts stories (all on the same spread), and the right led to the sports section. There was no front page mention of the two Globe stories, and I suspect many Tech readers missed them.

Perhaps The Tech needs to rethink its inside boxes. On Jan. 12, The Harvard Crimson launched their redesign. According to the article, the Crimson has “three inside story teasers above the masthead [to] direct readers’ attention to important or interesting stories.”

Stories buried deep inside the last issue.

There was no other lead to the last two stories.

The Tech’s redesigned front page debuted Jan. 12, 2004. It shows interior content in four ways: inside story teasers, section teasers, inside coverage boxes, and an index box.

Letters to the Editor

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

ACROSS
1. Tarries
6. Beatty film
10. Discomfort
14. Acoustic
15. Verve
16. Praise
17. Loose rock
20. 1992 tennis film?
23. Remains
24. Terminate
25. Grief
28. CIA forerunner
29. Family member
30. Going-public letters
32. Potash
33. Group of GIs
34. Scampi
36. 1955 tennis film?
40. Like an open prairie
41. Horace work, "__ Poetica"
42. Botanist Gray
43. Actress Lupino
44. Handwritten writings: abbr.
45. Young man
46. Verve
48. Dog greetings
50. Spider’s cry
51. Father
52. 2003 tennis film?
54. Mohamed
56. 1950 tennis film?
58. Crystal-gazer
60. Kudrow of “Friends”
62. State
63. Speedy
64. Bengal and Biscay
65. Painter’s base

DOWN
1. Cafe
2. Foot parts
3. Coercion
4. Build
5. Mist expel
6. Mist expel
7. Antelope
8. Mist expel
9. Catch
10. Texas shrine
11. Showy roselike flower
12. Buzz
13. Old name for Tokyo
14. Fermented
15. Worshipper
16. and
17. Terminus
18. Sea
19. Epee wielder
20. ER neighbor
21. City SW of Reanoke
22. Enzyme
24. Distress letters
25. Letters for motor homes
26. Boundaries
27. Spritely
28. Broad
29. Enzyme ending
30. Pierce
31. Enzyme
32. Enzyme
33. Enzyme
34. Distress
35. Letters for motor homes
36. Pierce
37. Sky bear
38. Close call
39. Powell’s org.
40. Like an open prairie
41. Horace work, “__ Poetica”
42. Botanist Gray
43. Actress Lupino
44. Handwritten writings: abbr.
45. Young man
46. Verve
48. Dog greetings
50. Spider – spotter’s cry
51. Father
52. 2003 tennis film?
56. Kuwait’s ruler
58. Artist Bonheur
59. Land of Port-au-Prince
60. Kudrow of “Friends”
61. Large inland sea
62. State
63. Speedy
64. Bengal and Biscay
65. Painter’s base

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program
is accepting applications for its next deadline

January 30, 2004

Please contact Susan Cohen (cohen@media.mit.edu) after January 5, 2004
to set up an appointment to discuss your application.

We STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you set up an appointment!
(proposals submitted for this deadline cannot support projects with a start date before March 14, 2004)

Currently registered MIT students, MIT faculty and MIT staff are eligible to apply.

All types of arts projects are supported: visual, literary and performing arts

For more detailed information, read the Guidelines on the web at:
http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantguide.html

You may also submit your application from the web at:
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WATCH DAWG:

Person who claims they were among the first to start downloading movies.
At the time of this writing, my Athena account is already deactivated. This chronicle begins on November 4, 2003, the date I received notice of my account’s impending demise due to my recent graduation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The notice read:

Account Deactivation Notice (4 November 2003)

This is to notify you that your Athena account is scheduled for deactivation on or shortly after January 14, 2004. If you are currently enrolled in classes, are currently MIT Faculty or Staff, or are working with an MIT Faculty or Staff member on a project that requires the use of Athena, please contact Athena User Accounts.

I was aghast. I had been expecting this eventuality for some time now, although I suppose the shock never completely set in. With that, I dutifully set up the proper arrangements and backed up all of the contents of my Athena locker three days ago so that I might have some token with which to remember my goddess Athena. Not one to be so easily defeated, I logged into all-night-tool.mit.edu on January 14 at 3 p.m. EST to see what would happen if I were to stand my ground during the account deactivation.

All was fine and by 11 p.m. I was still able to invoke the usual Athena functions. However, I was extremely weary because of the late nights I had put up with for the past couple days and decided to take a nap (it was only 8 p.m. in my time zone, PST). After my respite, I arose at around 2 a.m. EST and decided to check on my Athena.

I executed an ‘ls’ on my home directory. The error message gave me a jolt. Was this the end? Had my goddess abandoned me?

I executed an ‘ls’ on my home directory. The display of my directory listing proffered nothing of my Athena locker three days ago so it was gone. A verification e-mail to myself further substantiated this unfortunate reality with a bounce message:

remote host said: 550 5.1.1... User unknown
Giving up on 18.7.21.83.

Remarkably, further experimentation proved that my usual access privileges to various mailing lists and lockers had not yet been revoked. I still maintained write privileges to the j-entry locker from the days when I had the duties of the MacGregor J-Entry Webmaster. Thus, I am taking this opportunity now to slew this saga on the very last remaining location to which I still have access. This will probably be my final mark on the halls of Athena.

I continue to remain logged in, like a child clinging desperately to the mother who has abandoned him, but I fear I may not last long. Soon I will require sleep and my idle time limit will probably be reached, exiting me forever from my goddess Athena. At the very least I can proudly say I did not go down without a fight!

Some system administrator out there is probably logged in laughing at me.

Forever yours, Athena.

Clyde Law ’02, MEng ’03

Inspiréd in part by conversations with Ronojoy Chakrabarti ’02, Christopher Chou ’02, and Michel Lambert ’04.

Epilogue

clydelaw was logged out during the early morning of Friday, January 16. Precisely time of logout was determined to be 6:37 a.m. EST. After surviving over 24 hours post-deactivation, he decided to access his tar and pull the plug on the keep-alive script. The activity monitors kicked in, and he was logged out peacefully while sleeping.

— Archit Shah ’00
ECONOMY
Hardware/Homeware
Everything you need!

From the director of LEGALLY BLONDE
Kate Bosworth Topher Grace Josh Duhamel

In every love story,
there’s only room
for one leading man.

WIN A DATE WITH
TAD HAMILTON!

The producers of the hit movie, Tad Hamilton, bring you the opportunity to win a date with Tad Hamilton himself!

Two lucky people will have the chance to spend the night with Tad. You and a date will be flown to Los Angeles and picked up by Tad. You’ll enjoy a private dinner and then spend the night with Tad, complete with a gift basket full of Tad’s favorite things!

How to Enter:
1. Visit our website at www.tadhambaton.com and complete the entry form.
2. You must be at least 18 years old and a legal resident of the United States to enter.
3. One entry per person.
4. The winner will be notified by email by January 31, 2004.

Good luck and goodnight!

MIT Department of Facilities
NECCO Building Concession
Beginning on Tuesday, January 20, Albany Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from Massachusetts Avenue to Pacific Street. The closure will remain in effect through the weekend. Drivers should use Leland Avenue as a detour route. Work continues in the building area on glass elevator installation. Interior finish work continues at all levels of the building.

Budgeting
Work on the third and fourth floors and the basement level is substantially complete. The new fire alarm and sprinkler systems are complete and testing is underway. First and second floor piping, mechanical, and electrical work continues. New exterior doors and windows have been installed.

Safety Center
Parking enforcement is proceeding as dictated by weather conditions. Interior work on office partitions and offices (life, interior glass, etc.) is underway in the Gresleri and Eames buildings.

New primeless service project
Birchall and de Forest units. The sixth and seventh floors are now in progress. Albany Street between the Albany Street garage and Mather Street will remain closed through spring/summer 2004.

Water Street: Building
Work on the Water Street building has been suspended for the winter and will begin again this spring.

For more information on MIT’s building program, visit www.mit.edu/infrastructure.

This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

January 21, 2004
THE TECH Page 11

INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT?
Learn more about opportunities and events at www.thei.org

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- Human Rights and Women's Issues
- Science and Technology
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APPLY BY FEBRUARY 1, 2004
Complete the online application at
www.thei.org/internships
Photojournalist E.C. Withers discusses his images of the Civil Rights era during a Martin Luther King Day lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts Monday afternoon. Withers traveled throughout the South with Dr. King, and documented several famous civil rights milestones. Photography by Daniel Bersak.
Mystery Hunt, from Page 1

shifts to cover the early morning hours, and one of our team members set up a wiki, a Web page we could all easily modify, so that we could keep track of our progress during the hunt.

About half of the team would come and go from puzzling, taking breaks to sleep, eat, and shower, though many of us established a permanent presence in the lounge. From time to time someone would leave briefly to get sustenance or to visit the French Armada.

Because we were a fairly small team of mostly first-timers, we would usually attack puzzles in pairs or small groups and work on them relentlessly until they were solved. From time to time the French Armada would call us with hints, though we generally were left to rely on having one of those “Ah-ha” moments.

Sanity levels were rapidly dropping by Sunday afternoon, after a weekend of no sleep and working on a puzzle for several straight hours. Our goal in the final hours of the hunt became to complete one meta puzzle, which we did by making an origami pirate’s hat early on Monday morning.

Puzzles difficult but fun

One puzzle that I particularly struggled with was “May This Be the Year of Zacazontli.” After sleeping all day Monday, our team went to the wrap-up in the evening, where the French Armada awarded prizes, shared anecdotes about certain teams, and explained the general structure of the hunt.

Each island from the Map of all Space and Time involved solving about fifteen puzzles, and each island had a meta puzzle that required the solutions to most or all of the fifteen puzzles. After all seven meta puzzles had been completed, teams had to board a pirate ship and ride with lots of interesting and difficult problems to solve. The first time you try it, you feel completely hosed, but it gets better as you go along and eventually someone helps you see the big picture. And in the end, it isn’t how many puzzles you solve or even whether or not you found the coin that matters, but what you learned in the process and the fun you had getting there.

One of the prizes awarded at the wrap-up was an additional vial of rum for the Baker team, who drank theirs as soon as they found the coin that matters, it’s bittersweet to find myself back in the routine of normal life.

Mystery Hunt for a good 68 straight hours, it’s bittersweet to find myself back in the routine of normal life.

The recovery process

After thinking about nothing but Mystery Hunt for a good 68 straight hours, it’s bittersweet to find myself back in the routine of normal life.

Even on Monday evening I was still looking for patterns in everything I read, but I’ve mostly recovered by now. I stopped answering the phone by saying “Ah-m!” and I’ve relinquished my title as Captain.

Our team of mostly freshmen and sophomores felt overwhelmed at times, but I knew we had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the experience. The French Armada especially did a good job of making sure all the teams were having a good time, providing us with hints when necessary.

In a lot of ways, I feel that the Mystery Hunt is representative of life here at MIT — a wild, crazy ride with lots of interesting and difficult problems to solve. The first time you try it, you feel completely hosed, but it gets better as you go along and eventually someone helps you see the big picture. And in the end, it isn’t how many puzzles you solve or even whether or not you found the coin that matters, but what you learned in the process and the fun you had getting there.

The pipes also contributed to the damage done to the house. “There’s substantial damage to life here at MIT — a wild, crazy ride with lots of interesting and difficult problems to solve. The first time you try it, you feel completely hosed, but it gets better as you go along and eventually someone helps you see the big picture. And in the end, it isn’t how many puzzles you solve or even whether or not you found the coin that matters, but what you learned in the process and the fun you had getting there.”

Bercovici said.

One can move back into the house, including the dining room and the kitchen of the house, even though the ceiling rafters are still there.” The sprinkler system, the water, was disabled.” The smoke alarms, however, were still operational, he said.

Inactived Sprinklers

Prior to the fire, around 2 a.m. on December 3, members of BTP had noticed that the sprinkler system was off. The French Armada especially did a good job of making sure all the teams were having a good time, providing us with hints when necessary. Even though I was only a second-year hunter, I felt like I had a much better understanding of the hunt this year than last year. By the time our team will improve by next year.

In a lot of ways, I feel that the Mystery Hunt is representative of life here at MIT — a wild, crazy ride with lots of interesting and difficult problems to solve. The first time you try it, you feel completely hosed, but it gets better as you go along and eventually someone helps you see the big picture. And in the end, it isn’t how many puzzles you solve or even whether or not you found the coin that matters, but what you learned in the process and the fun you had getting there.

Toward Peaceful Coexistence in the Middle East

A three-part series examines the role of civil society in the quest for peace in the Middle East.

Panel 1: Civil vs. Uncivil Society: What Are the Consequences for Peace?

In an open society, a wide variety of interests coexist and the exchange of ideas is a way to resolve conflict. What is needed is a civil society, which is characterized by a variety of social and political groups that provide a forum for debate and discussion of issues.

Featuring Richard LaBy, senior professor and director of the Center for International Studies, Boston University; and Martha Finnemore, senior research associate, International Peace Research Institute, Oslo.

Thursday, January 29, 2004 at 7:30 PM

Boston University, College of Arts & Sciences

For more information, please call 617.353.8700.

Although the Guys assert that MIT is partly responsible for Guy’s death, they acknowledge in the complaint that their son “was not blameless in this tragedy.”

Shins, Carpenters also suing

The Guys’ lawsuit is on schedule to go to trial in 2005. The two other wrongful death lawsuits pending against MIT — one filed by the parents of Elizabeth H. Shin ’02, another by the father of Julia M. Carpenter ’03 — will go to trial in 2005 and 2006, both seeking more than $20 million from MIT and several MIT administrators and doctors whom the parents say were responsible for their daughters’ suicides.
Women's Swim, Dive Teams Beat Brandeis
By Victoria Anderson

The MIT women's swimming and diving team split a double dual meet on Jan. 18, topping Brandeis 209.5-77.5 and falling to Tufts 139-160. The Beavers dropped their first 200-yard medley relay of the season, as the combined swims of Erin M. Zoller '05, Melissa E. Dere '06, Aasia Saleemuddin '04, and Kathryn M. Duffy '04 totaled to 1:56.15, over a second behind Tufts' top relay. Their time was, however, good for first against Brandeis, and the relay team of Victoria K. Anderson G, Monica W. Chu '07, Jessica A. Harpole '07, and Mabel Y. Feng '06 posted a 2:01.26 for third against both Brandeis and Tufts.

Katherine C. Thornton '07 led off the individual events of the meet with a spectacular performance in the 1650 freestyle. Her time of 17:26.00 not only gave her first place against both teams, but also put her only one-hundredth of a second away from an automatic qualifying time for the NCAA Division III National Championships. With her 1650 time, as well as her 1000 split time of 10:31.83, she bettered her own Institute record of just one month. Also swimming the 1650, Maryann E. Racine '06 touched in 19:25.09 to take third against both teams.

In the 200 free, Georgene M. Hilb '04 finished first overall with a season-best time of 1:58.62. Starting off the first round of stroke races, Jennifer A. L'ao '05 finished the 100 back with a time of 1:03.75 to place first against the Brandeis swimmers and second against the Tufts athletes. In the 100 breast, Dere took second against Brandeis and first against Tufts with a time of 1:11.02 while Chu was third against both teams, touching in 1:13.14.

Thornton climbed back on the blocks shortly after her 1650 performance to swim a time of 2:14.25 in the 200 fly, which put her second against Tufts and third against Brandeis. In the sprint free events, Duffy and Zoller took first and second against Brandeis and first and third against Tufts with times of 24.64 and 26.11, respectively, while Duffy and Hilb were first and second against Brandeis and first and third against Tufts with times of 53.37 and 56.00, respectively. L’ao and Zoller took to the water for the 200 back, taking second and third against Tufts and first and second against Brandeis with their times of 2:17.07 and 2:18.29, respectively. Dere and Chu dominated the Tufts swimmers in the 200 breast, taking first and second with times of 2:31.93 and 2:38.44, respectively, that also put them second and third against Brandeis.

Thorton finished off another Institute record with a 5:11.06 in the 500 free, which put her first against both teams. Also swimming the 500 free, Hilb posted a 5:21.58 to take third against both teams.

The final record-setting event of the meet was the 400 IM, as L’ao finished in 4:44.42, breaking the Institute record in the event and taking third against both teams.

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Why the NCAA Is Better Than the NBA

By Brian Chase
columnist

The sports world nowadays, this month is also the basketball season, with both the NBA and NCAA Division I basketball seasons in full swing. I’m always paying attention to those leagues, though, and that’s college. To me, collegiate basketball is much more entertaining than the NBA for several reasons.

1. Egos

In college basketball, you don’t run into any egos that are convi- cted they are the ball, end-all of the league and deserve to be paid more than anyone in the NBA. For my money, those factors don’t make up the difference between the enjoyment I get from college basketball and the only slight interest I have in the NBA. For my money, give the pros more modern games, like the NBA.

2. Playing style

To me, the sports that more teams in college win through united team strategies than relying on two or three stars for individual perfor- mances, like in the NBA. Admittedly, there are college teams that play the way as the NFL, but for every one of them there is a team like Gonzaga, who consistently plays better than their talent because they have a good coach and because they play as a united whole, relying on one player.

3. College Fans

There is no NBA stadium that can produce the kind of enthusiasm of the right crazy fanaticism that college students show for their respective teams. Three weeks ago, I saw a Nico- nes filled with an entire section of screaming college fans all with painted bodies and choreographed, traditional tactics to disrupt the opposing team’s free throws. It adds a level of excitement and enjoyment to college games that isn’t there in the NBA.

4. Parity

In any given year of college bas- ketball, there are at least twenty teams that are good enough to win the championship, unlike the NBA, where you know a Western confer- ence team will win, and you usually even know which one by the first round of the playoffs. In college b- ball, you never know until the final game who is going to win and a winner can come from any of the major conferences. The greater num- ber of teams makes for more possible match-ups between good teams and generally more good games than in the NBA.

5. Permanence

In college, 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 run into the ground. The same lines, the sheer number of college teams means that more people care for them, even if they don’t live near a major city.

6. Playoffs

This one pretty much with- out question is the NBA play- offs never come near to the excite- ment of March Madness. And really, that’s the most important part of the season, isn’t it?

Now, as a media player myself, I admit the individual players are undoubtedly better in the NBA than in college, and maybe the level of basketball is too. But to those factors don’t make up the difference between the enjoyment I get from college base- ketball and the only slight interest I have in the NBA. For my money, give the pros more modern games, like the NBA.

The Tech sports desk is always on the lookout for talented writers. If you are interested in writing for The Tech, please contact sportsdesk@thetech.org.