Prometheus, No Longer Publishing

By Tongyan Lin

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

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

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

Stata Center to Open in March

By Jenny Zhang

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

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

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

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

Location of classes undecided

Many classes, principally in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Linguistics and Philoso-

ogy, and Health Sciences and Technology, were scheduled to be in the Stata Center this spring. “We built the spring schedule without the five [Stata] rooms in the equation” as back-up for this kind of situation, said Assistant Registrar Peter D. Bodnarek.

“The plan that I know of is that each class will decide whether or not to move” after spring break, Terman said.

iCampus Funds Four New Student Projects

By Ray C. He

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

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

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

FrontDesk to help desk workers

One of the teams, known as FrontDesk, plans to write software to help dormitory desk workers communicate with residents, keep guest lists, and track rented movies and dormitory equipment. It will allow residents to track their packages, check movie rental status, and manage their personal guest lists, with a Web browser, according to the project’s proposal.

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

The other team members are Lus-

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tor, and Jennifer Liu ’04.

The FrontDesk team has already contacted “a handful of deans, who were very supportive” and several dormitories, Kay said. “Simmons and McCone is a dormitory eager to test out prototypes of our system if we give them hardware,” he said.

A typical use of the system would be to track mail and inform residents when they have new packages. Kay said, using a hand-held personal digital assistant. “The FrontDesk worker would be processing mail and the iCampus, Page 19

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MIT Upgrades Networks In East Campus, Bexley

By Michael E. Rolish

Major network upgrades will be completed at the end of February.

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

D’Amico said that the upgrades have stayed on budget. The total cost to Housing for this needed upgrade is just over one million dollars,” said Karen A. Nils-

son, the director of housing.

In the past year, planned sub-

stantial upgrades at New House were put on hold, and upgrades at Next House were scaled back, although there was some hardware replacement. “We were able to upgrade some of the backbone links in the building,” said Angie Kelic, the Resnet coordinator, referring to connections between sections of Next House.

Other dormitories also saw improvements. “We completed some upgrade work in the MacGre-

gor low-rise to switch it over to a new backbone,” Kelic said. East- gate, Westgate, and Edgerton also had some connections upgraded, she said.

There are still quite a few resi-
dential networks that don’t perform as well as we’d like given the usage their residents subject them to,” D’Amico said. He listed Eastgate, Westgate, Tang, and Martin-Connon, New House, and Next House as examples.

D’Amico said he expects one to

Prometheus, Page 17

This is The Tech’s last IAP issue. We will return to our normal Tuesday-Friday schedule on February 3.
New Computer Virus Hits Networks

By Adam Nagourney

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

The virus-like program, called a worm and known as Mydoom, Naravag and other names, is proliferating through e-mail attachments and computer-to-computer data sharing.

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

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

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

NASA Plans to Fly Shuttlés by Fall

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Kerry Wins New Hampshire Primary: Dean Takes Second

By By Adam Nagourney

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

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

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

Joe Edward of North Carolina and Wesley K. Clark were virtually tied for a distant third place in incontestable results behind Dean and Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, the Connecticut senator in fifth place, with some associates saying that Lieberman was close to folding his campaign.

Dean’s aides, taking a page from presidential candidates from Eugene McCarthy to Bill Clinton, sought even before the polls had closed to portray his second-place showing as a win, noting that it had come just eight days after his third-place showing in Iowa.

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

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

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

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

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

Still, by any measure, the results were a significant setback for Dean, who had all but moved into New Hampshire and Iowa for the past year, in hopes of replicating Jimmy Carter’s strategy by which a little-known governor into his party’s nomination and becomes president of the United States.

And it presents him with a challenge as the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination moves into a very different phase:

From the living rooms and small settings of Iowa and New Hampshire where Dean had excelled to what in effect will be a national primary next Tuesday fought out on the network news and with television commercials.

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

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

Bush Declines to Repeat Claim That Iraq Had Illegal Weapons

By By David E. Sanger

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

Asked by reporters on Tuesday if he would restate his previous expressions of confidence that the weapons would be found in light of recent statements by the outgoing Iraq Survey Group that it was not included in its final report the weapons inspectors in Iraq, David A. Kay, that Saddam had got rid of them well before the war, Bush did not repeat them.

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

He praised Kay’s work and came to the defense of the CIA, whose reporting on Iraq’s weapons programs Kay sharply criticized in interviews over the weekend.

“I think we are an unbelievably hard-working and dedicated group of people who are doing a great job for America,” Bush said of the intelligence community.

Bush said he would await the final conclusions of the Iraq Survey Group, which Kay headed until he resigned last week — before reaching any conclusions about whether the intelligence he relied upon was flawed.

At the White House and on Capitol Hill, many officials said they doubted Bush would have the leverage for anything but a full-fledged war with the United States and its allies — could have been so flawed. The White House expressed no interest in the creation of such a panel.

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

Bush Outbreak of Bird Flu

China has reported bird flu cases in chickens a week before China's neighbors, leading concern that the deadly strain, which has killed at least nine people so far, could spread throughout Asia.

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

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

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

Sunny, but cold and breezy. High 22°F (–6°C).

Extended Forecast

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

Tonight: Clear, with light wind. Low 25°F (–3°C).

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

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

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


The New York Times
By Diana Jean Schemo

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

Was it the price? The fuzzy picture? Maybe it was the description: a beautiful pair of chandelier earrings. Such is the eBay underworld of spellers, where the clueless — and sometimes just careless — sell laptop computers, throwing knives, Art Déco vases, camras, comforters and saphires. They do get bidders, but rarely very many. Often the buyers are those who troll for spelling slip-ups, buying items on the cheap and selling them all over again on eBay, but with the right spelling and for the right price.

John H. Green, a jeweler in Central Florida who sells by the name torchshell, is one of them. He once bought a box of gers for $2. They were gears for pocket watches, which he cleaned up and put back on the auction block with the right spelling. They sold for $200.

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

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

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

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

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

The commission said Tuesday that it had still not yet a commitment from the administration for public testimony from prominent White House officials, including Condoleezza Rice, the president’s national security adviser. The panel said it was still in negotiations over the possibility of testimony from President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

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

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

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

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

Sharon said that any report of such negotiations was false. “I have no intention of legislating any law that would tie the government’s hands,” he said. He said his advisers had only just begun drawing up his plan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of The Tech or its editors. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02219-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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

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

Matt Silver

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

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

Regarding cost, let’s put some things in perspective. NASA’s FY03 budget was roughly $15 billion. Bush’s proposal calls for $1 billion in new funds spread over the next five years, and $11 billion re-allocated from existing NASA programs, resulting in an increase of $200 million a year. For comparison, the U.S. will spend roughly $400 billion on defense in 2004 — more than the next fifteen countries combined. Congress has recently tabled the $328 billion Consolidated Appropriations Bill for FY04, which includes no less than $10.7 billion in earmarks. These are funds directed for particular congressional districts, often benefiting little more than a specific congressman’s election effort. California will soon have a “bus project at Disneyland gets the same bang for its buck, of course, maintain that the U.S. should simply develop the capability involved in human space flight. With this brings us to the classic argument of whether human space exploration in general is a good thing, worth reviewing in light of the current plans.

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

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

An often-ignored benefit of space activities involves its capacity to increase international cooperation and generate goodwill. A return to the moon will bring the international community together in an activity that pits men against the cosmos. An international effort will not only lower costs through the pooling of resources, it will create concrete links between the U.S., Russia, Japan, Europe, even China; and this will have tremendous symbolic overtones. Last, but certainly not least, while space enthusiasts often point somewhat apologetically to the benefits described above in order to justify space exploration, there is a deeper reason for their fascination. It is the same reason that gives space exploration its great symbolic weight — the innate human desire to learn more, to explore the unknown. While this need does not easily find its way into a budget sheet, it has an important place in society.

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

Money should be spent on health care and managed-care systems, and hundreds of billions of dollars each year are spent on such programs: major advances — advances that benefit all humans — rarely occur if society itself does not grow, and can only be achieved if while we look inward at the problems before us, we do not forget to look outward and take some risks.

Matt Silver is a graduate student in the Technology and Policy Program.
In last Tuesday's State of the Union address, President George W. Bush said the "state of our union is confident and strong." President Bush devoted five hundred with thousands more injured. Bush has finally gone to the "front line" to help the rebuilding, but after the brush way his administration has dealt with other countries, not much help seems to be coming from them.

Lastly, because of the way Washington shifted its attention to Iraq, important resources were diverted from fighting terrorists in Afghanistan. The situation there is also plagued with problems, as the central government has little control over the border with Afghanistan, and the border will not even close to being secure. We have failed to wipe out the terrorists as effectively as we could have, and Osama bin Laden has escaped. Sadly, the President offered no solutions to these problems in his speech.

Since most Americans have indicated that they don't care all that much about the war if they're getting a paycheck, our fearless leader shrewdly paid attention to his polls and allowed time in the address for domestic issues. The President also made that its goal. One thousand jobs were created, accompanied by the recent news that the stock market has taken a turn for the better, Wall Streeters are surviving now that the health care system, even though many wingers, if they had not been made giddy by Bush's speeches, they probably would have had to be convince themselves after the President addressed other domestic issues. Bush does not want the government to become the health care system, even though many industrialized countries have universal health care and the government usually plays a large role.

On the issue of faith-based charities, Bush seems to have forgotten about the first one, which contains a vital part of the foundation of our country: freedom of religion. The Establishment Clause bans the government from establishing or endorsing religion, yet the President has backed Bush pushed for his plan to allow federal funding for faith-based charities. I think we should be able to make decisions on the basis of our faith, but should not discriminate against such charities. But discriminating against homosexuals is okay.

Curiously, Bush gave time to an issue like drug use and terrorism. And Americans are way too many better options out there, and that next year, the state of our union can truly be as strong as the President says it may be because it seems if the man giving the speech is the right one.

Procrastination: Friend or Foe?

W. Virginia Lee

Since I was young, I have been frequently told to never wait until the last minute. Be finishing my math assignment, writing an English essay, or studying for an exam, I was told to never wait until the last minute. Be it procrastination and to the actual completion of the task there are the less skillful ones who misuse it for their own gain. Addictive drugs that people smoke, sniff, or inject, procrastination, once taken in, seeps into your veins and dwells there stubbornly. It is to quit the habit is difficult to quit, but there are many more rea- sons why one can happily coexist with such a monster.

If procrastination is so hazardous both to academics and to health, why don't — and perhaps many others out there — quit the abominable habit? Like many addictive drugs that people smoke, sniff, or inject, procrastination, once taken in, seeps into your veins and dwells there stubbornly. It is to quit the habit is difficult to quit, but there are many more rea- sons why one can happily coexist with such a monster.

Procrastination is a behavior problem as well as a self-control problem. It is merely a bad name given to time management. The wise ones use it to their advantage. They manage to watch the game while they wait, and those that are not good at wait procrastination from foe to friend. Deal- ing with the friend is tricky. You'll never know if he will help you do more or less with your time. The safest way is to call the old devil, and never do tomorrow what you can do today.
January 28, 2004
THE TECH Page 7

ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★★★★

The Triplets of Belleville: Tres Chic, Tres Cuckoo

Caricatures Collide in Gently Zany Animated French Film

By Fred Choi
colmar

The Triplets of Belleville

Written and Directed by Sylvain Chomet

Starring the voices of Michelle Caucheteux, Jean-Claude Donda, Michel Robin, Monica Vargas

Rated PG-13

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

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

CLASSICAL REVIEW

Gil Shaham, BSO Excel in Berg Concerto

Antonio Pappano Guest Conducts Shostakovich Symphony, Debussy Prelude

By Andrew Wong
class master

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Antonio Pappano, conductor

Gil Shaham, violin
Symphony Hall
Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

The subsequent cadenza proved why the Grammy award-winning violinist has had so much international success in the past ten years. Following the entrance of the orchestra, a somber, reflective duet between the violin and bassoon introduced the Bach chorale that had in the interim become almost cliché, but as the result the work落幕s much of a punch to a modern audience. The short concentrates on a woman and a man and, as can be expected, the surrealist transformations each undergoes. Whether it does or not in this world remains to be seen.

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

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CONCERT REVIEW

Three Cheers for Three Doors Down?

Despite Solid Performance, Show Lacked That Extra Something

By Pey-Hua Hwang

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

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

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

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

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Shinedown guitarist Matt Roberts jams "By My Side" last Tuesday evening at the Orpheum Theatre in Boston.

The crowd sang along to three songs loudly enough to overpower the massive speaker system. They sang, "Be Like That" and "Here Without You." The song "Changes" had a quiet, sweet feel that would have been lost had there been a designated crowd and one perfectly good ending to the set before the encore. On a side note, concertgoers should know that a show is never over without at least one encore if not two. You know the show is over when all the guitar picks have been pulled out of mouth and tossed to the crowd.

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

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

INTERVIEW

Will Fame Shine Down on Them?

Opening Band for Three Doors Down Awaits the Big Time

By Pey-Hua Hwang

Sometimes when you interview a band, you interview a group of people that are all first and foremost musicians. They dropped out of high school or they only made it halfway through college. The drummer, Barry Kerch, majored in Anthropology and Bassist, Brad Stewart, majored in Biology and worked as a chemist for Bacardi Rum before becoming the bassist of Shinedown. It’s almost like that old McDonald’s ad, “Hey, it could happen,” and for Shinedown it has.

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

They met up with Three Doors Down through their record manager, were given a two-week tour test run and have been on the tour since. They were "inducted," so to speak. I spoke to Kerch about the rigors of being on the road as a new band. “Touring is tough,” he said, “It’s an expensive habit.”

Since giving a performance is costly to rent the venue, transport the equipment, and pay the headlining band, small bands end up on the short end of the stick. For example, on tours like Ozzfest, bands often have to “pay or play for free.” The exchange is that the smaller bands get publicity and exposure to possible future fan base. Touring, however, has definitely allowed the band members to bond. “We became a family very fast. … even when shit is breaking over when all the guitar picks have been pulled out of mouth and tossed to the crowd.

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By Devdoot Majumdar

STAFF WRITER

January 28, 2003

THE TECH

My LeaderShape Reformation

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

It was in this grumpy spirit that I went last week to an MIT-sponsored program called LeaderShape, a six-day leadership camp out in Sharon, Massachusetts. In a freshmen-heavy group of sixty kids, I decided that I'd either find something amorphously redeemable about most MIT kids. In person, it's more of a social experiment than in short supply at Leadershape as I apologize to Christians, McCormick girls, and frat boys alike. They say that the more you use "sorry," the cheaper it gets. I find I can only be unapologetic when I don't care about the people who get offended — it's usually their fault anyhow. At LeaderShape, I grew a conscience and began to understand true remorse, at some level.

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

An anonymous source high up in the administration warned me in an e-mail this morning not to give away many of the details of the program. On paper, LeaderShape is your standard "be a good person" program. In person, it's more of a social experiment that works like Sartre's "No Exit," but in a good way. In "No Exit," you find three people who have just died and are stuck in a room together for eternity (their own personal hell). In LeaderShape, you find sixty kids stuck in a Salvation Army conference center who manage to let down their defenses, come down the self-consciousness, and play Mafia for six days. And though I didn't grow as a leader, the program made me grow as a person. For the sake of those who write letters to The Tech complaining about my interminable remarks, I'd like to lay on the sappiness in the next several paragraphs. I'm still confident I'll be able to offend someone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join The Tech Production staff and read Dilbert® and the rest of the paper before your friends do! Stop by Room 483 of the Student Center or call us at 253-1541.
**FoxTrot by Bill Amend**

--

**Dilbert® by Scott Adams**

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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 Grants Guidelines on the web at:

http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantguide.html

You may also submit your application from the web, at:

http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantform.html

The Council for the Arts at MIT was founded in 1988 as an educational program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Because the Arts in MIT..." - Helen Gordon, President. The Arts at MIT have received "support for the arts at MIT..." from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Networking incomplete

One of the parts still incomplete in the Stata Center is the networking for floors two through nine. Garrett A. Wollman of CSAIL said he is unhappy with the project management team, which includes Ter- man of CSAIL and Silverman of the facilities department.

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

“Everyone on our end knew from the beginning that there was not a chance we could be done in January, certainly since September,” he said. One of the issues, Wollman said, was that networking needed closets to store equipment, but this request was not satisfied by the management team. “It’s been really ridicu- lous how little technology input has been taken,” he said.

Regarding the plans for the net- working to be done in time for the March move, Wollman said “I think we can make it happen if they hold up their end.” Silverman said that the request for closets could not have been sat- isfied because the closets were requested after the design of the building was determined, and no compromises could be made to the design at that stage in construction.

Budget is capped at $285 million

Silverman said he is confident that the cost for constructing the Stata center will remain at $285 mil- lion. “We’ve been working with the provost, and the costs are pretty much contained,” he said.

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

Stata Budget Capped at $285M
CHICK-FLICK CLICKER:

A guy who downloads romantic comedies who's too embarrassed to see them in a theater.

UPGRADES PLANNED IN DORMS

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

Prometheus, from Page 1

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

Paper falls short on time, people

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASA requires viability, uniqueness

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

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

Want to get involved? Just email join@tt.mit.edu

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Illustration by Matt Parker
Projects to Track Sailboats, Display News and More

Joining the iCampus family of projects to track sailboats, display news and more is DomeView. DomeView will post display student news and contribute to the ShuttleTrack project, which monitors students and SafeRide shuttles, and let students access Global Positioning System (GPS) data. DomeView is an idea I came up with before the start of last semester, with research assistance from members of the Undergraduate Association's Committee on Student Life, and with support from the MIT's Student Union and the administration. DomeView is a collaboration between MIT's sailing team and the River Rat project, which proposes to use GPS data from MIT's fleet of sailboats. MIT's sailing team wanted to develop a system that would allow them to track sailboats sailing on the Charles River, and to be able to offer a view of the race itself in real-time. The DomeView team is working on the implementation of the system, which will use GPS data to track the location of MIT's sailing boats. The team plans to have about 12 displays across campus, with the best type of display to use and the best locations for displays. The system will also use radio frequency ID readers. The DomeView team is currently working on the implementation of the system, which will use GPS data to track the location of MIT's sailing boats.
The Office of Academic Services announces the following scholarship/fellowship opportunities:

The Kawamura Visiting Fellowship Program

A five week, all expenses paid Summer Fellowship in Japan open to all currently enrolled MIT students. Fellowship recipients need not have any prior experience with Japanese language, culture or history. The program gives students exposure to Japan in many ways—culture, politics, business, and society through home stay with a Japanese family, visits to a Japanese school, companies, government offices, etc..

Further information, including online application: http://www.kawamuraobservation.org/

Applications interface closes at 11:59 PM, February 3

The Beinecke Scholarship

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

http://www.beineckescholarship.org/

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

Eloranta Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships

$6,000 undergraduate fellowships to support challenging intellectual work in any field: science, engineering, humanities, social science, and the arts.

http://web.mit.edu/eloranta/

Applications due 5:00PM in room 7-133 on February 27

The Morris K. Udall Foundation Scholarship

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

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

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

For further information or general questions please contact:
Dean Andrew Eisenmann, x3-8444, eisen@mit.edu or
Eric Thorsen, x3-7364, ethorsen@mit.edu
By Issel Anne L. Lim

STAFF REPORTER

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

MIT accepted 438 students out of a pool of about 2,830 early action applicants for 2008, and is currently examining the 7,585 regular applications, according to the admissions office. Last year, 3,579 students applied to MIT early, with 6,980 regular-time applications.

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

Application boom ends

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

Application seeks creativity

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

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

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

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

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

Early class of 2008 by the numbers

Of the accepted early applicants, 53 percent are male. A racial breakdown of the class shows that 41 percent are Caucasian, 26 percent are Asian-American, and 20 percent are members of under-represented minority groups. Almost 40 percent of the accepted students come from southern or mid-Atlantic states. An overwhelming 75 percent are from public high schools and 93 percent said that they are planning to major in a science or engineering field.

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

Information on accepted students can be found at http://web.mit.edu/admissions/inside/yourclass/.
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MEET THE FIRM NIGHT

The Allstate Insurance Company, Enterprise Technology team would like to meet you.

We'll be sharing information about the company, our incredible growth and our hiring needs for both internship and entry level positions. This will also be your opportunity to talk to the Vice President of Enterprise Technology as well as one of the Directors. If you are majoring in Computer Science or considering a career in one of the following fields, don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the organization.

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- Application and system development
- Systems Analysis
- Enterprise Architecture
- Project Management
- Application and Enterprise Architecture
- and more

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If you can't join us for our "MEET THE FIRM" night stop by our booth on Thursday February 5 at the college job fair in the Rockwell Cage Building.

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Team Member
By Martha Buckley
For Women’s Track
Tough IAP Training
January 28, 2003

In the Standard category, the Columbia, the NBA, the New England College, and the University of Massachusetts both won. In the Smooth, second in the Rhythm, third in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep.

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For tough dances, the Columbia, the NBA, the New England College, and the University of Massachusetts both won. In the Smooth, second in the Rhythm, third in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep.

For exciting dances, the Columbia, the NBA, the New England College, and the University of Massachusetts both won. In the Smooth, second in the Rhythm, third in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep.

For fast dances, the Columbia, the NBA, the New England College, and the University of Massachusetts both won. In the Smooth, second in the Rhythm, third in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep; Steve and Essie took third in the Rhythm, fourth in the Latin, and Quickstep.

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Students Blow Away the Stress

By Brian Chase

Quick. Name the most popular phys. ed. classes at MIT. I’ll spot you downstairs skating during IAP. Now name the second most popular. Firing blanks? Well, that horrible gun didn’t tip you off already, the answer will definitely surprise you: Beginner Pistol. This IAP, 113 people signed up for Beginner Pistol, the second most of any P.E. And this isn’t isolation, either. You might be asking yourself, why pistol? Turns out that pistol class suits MIT better than you might think and is nowhere near as threatening or dangerous as some people assume.

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

When I asked some students in my class why they enrolled, the reasons they gave were the common-place reasons you would expect for taking any sport: “I wanted to learn another skill I wouldn’t have had outside,” said Maya G. Gilbert-Schattner ’05. He also said his curiosity was a factor in choosing pistol, and he was enjoying it much the same way he enjoyed ice skating. David M. Sachs G wanted to “… get something around” and said that he “didn’t really think about it” when he signed up for the class. Rafael Z. Dhulienes ’05 did find one reason pistol was more popular than some other sports: “I think the frustration helps,” and pistol does give a better catharsis for the stress of MIT than some other sports might.

So MIT students are willing to take pistol. Understandable, the rea- sons, but are they any good at it? In fact, MIT students are better suited to pistol than students at other schools, according to Coach Hart. He relates that “… shooting attracts a lot of people in the hard sci- ences” and that “MIT students are inquisitive, have self-discipline, and attention to detail … all the qualities for a successful MIT student also make for a good shooter.” This might explain why the MIT Pistol Team dates back to the Barries and why the Pistol Team can beat any other team in the country, including those from military academies, where the stu- dents are expected to have some experience in pistol before they join the team. MIT has had national champions that have never touched a gun before they set foot on campus. The same determination and dedica- tion that lets MIT students excel at everything else lets them excel in pis- tol shooting the same way.

The curious reader might be ask- ing, what’s Beginner Pistol like? It begins and ends with safety. I took the class this IAP, and it was two ses- sions in before we even touched a gun, and three in before we shot one. The first things taught are the rules of gun safety, and they are repeated at the beginning of each class. We learn about the pistol’s mechanics, parts, and operation before we even step foot on the range. The point of Begin- ner Pistol, and it’s clear Hart emphasizes, is to learn safety, not to learn to shoot well. This emphasis on safety goes a long way towards disabling students of the notion that guns are inherently bad, or that they cannot be used in a controlled fashion.

Once I finally got to fire the gun, I was initially scared. I wasn’t affected. I was, I may have been expecting something much more than a hing- slight recoil and a hole in a paper- square 50 feet away, but that’s all I got. And that’s all you need to have fun in Beginner Pistol. The challenge of it, like any sport, is to improve yourself, and in Pistol, the challenge is accuracy. You’d be sur- prised at how many detailed things can throw off your aim, from the set of your shoulders to how you focus on the sights of what target you are using. Some might think firing a pis- tol accurately is as easy as pointing and pulling the trigger, but they are deceived. Those of us in the class learn that it’s as easy to miss the target as to hit it in the early stages of firing, and that it is almost impossible to achieve the accuracy we see in the target posted on the walls of Pistol Team members.

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

Want to explore engineering as a major and examine spectacular engineering failures at the same time? Want to get Communication Intensive (CT) credit in a fun engineering class? “Colossal Failures in Engineering” with this String Super Bowl week, all the focus is on football. The winning streak of the New Eng- land Patriots has of course been impressive. The got of the Carolina Panthers has perhaps been the most under appreciated thing all season. The storylines are great. Jake Del- morry is trying to be the second coming of Tom Brady, and Tom Brady is just trying to win his second Super Bowl in three years. In fact, the Super Bowl is so celebrative that the Hall of Fame announce- ments were being made. Now, there’s the pair of Terrell Owens and Keyshawn Johnson making headaches headway this week. Perhaps we should expect something like this, after all, these two are among the biggest loudmouths in the entire NFL.

Let’s begin with Terrell Owens. He isn’t new to stupid behavior. Sev- eral years ago, when he was playing for the Dallas Cowboys at Texas Stadi- um, Owens proceeded to stomp on the star located at midfield after scor- ing a touchdown. When he did again, he was stopped by a Cowboys player running over to tackle Owens. Also, Owens once pulled out a sharper right after scoring a touch- down off of his shoes in order to sign the football for his agent. Grant- ed Joe Horn has topped that with his planted cell phone call, but Owens was the original pre-medicated cele- bration artist.

This week, Owens has stated that he probably will not be back with the San Francisco 49ers, and that he would most likely sign with Balti- more or Atlanta. That’s about as nor- mal for a receiver.

Owens continues by ripping Jeff Garcia completely. He says that he and him and Garcia, only one of the two will return in the next year. He does not walk away from the possibility that even Owens and Johnson would feel the same about that.

Owens, Johnson Take Spotlight With Grips

By Yong-yi Zhu

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