

SAE Decision Tabled

By Pon-Pon Yeh
STAFF REPORTER

The Interfraternity Council tabled a vote at a President's Council meeting this past Wednesday to give associate IFC member privileges to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. The vote will instead be taken after the fall 2004 recruitment period in order to better assess the fraternity's situation, said IFC President Daniel H. Daneshvar '05. Associate members of the IFC have all the privileges of full members except voting rights.

SAE submitted a petition to become an associate member of the IFC and spoke at the IFC President's Council two weeks ago. Becoming an associate member is the first step in the process of becoming a full member organization of the IFC.

"I think it went really well," said incoming SAE president Joseph P. Carlucci '05. "The IFC tabled the vote, but gave us full permission to rush."

The MIT chapter of SAE was derecognized in January 2000 after an underage drinking incident. The SAE house was shut down by the Boston Licensing Board and MIT withdrew recognition of the fraternity. The SAE alumni board expelled the upperclassmen at that time. Currently, there are nine members of SAE.

Petition still being examined

An expansion committee consisting of several fraternity presidents was formed to look into the petition and make recommendations to the council. The committee conducted several interviews to "determine whether these members would be an addition to the IFC community... whether they'd add something, bring something to the table," Daneshvar said.

Based on its findings, the committee recommended that "we table the votes on SAE until after rush of next year," said Daneshvar, primarily because "but there were some concerns about some of the individuals and their behavior regarding rush and orientation of last year."

"These guys have serious potential to bring something positive to the community," said Daneshvar. "We wanted to kind of give them a chance to prove to us that they wanted to be a valuable members of the community."

The council gave SAE stipulations to follow in order to prepare them for potential future IFC membership. Members are to receive training for intervention procedures, which is required of all IFC members.

In addition, SAE is required to meet with Steven J. Tyrell, associate

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Ljubicic, Robot Win 2.007 "Big Dig" Contest

By Kathy Dobson
STAFF REPORTER

Dean M. Ljubicic '06 took first place in the annual 2.007 design contest with his robot besting that of Bryan Woodruff '06 in the final round.

Both robots featured complicated designs with multiple strategies, and both robots required an additional driver.

"A lot of people say, 'Make your design simple,'" Ljubicic said; "I did something complicated but put in enough time to make sure it worked."

Samuel M. Felton '06 and Adam S. Kaczmarek '06 were the other two in the final four of the contest and, as a result of their finish, will participate with Ljubicic and Woodruff in the International Design Contest in Japan this summer.

Contest features many options

Named "Big Dig" in honor of Boston's Central Artery/Tunnel Project, this year's contest had four scoring options — more than there have been in previous years' contests. The most popular scoring option was to move balls from a stack located between the two players' starting positions and drop them into a hole in the table. Fifty-five small balls and four large shotput balls, as well as pucks that lined areas of the table, could be placed in the hole for points.



BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

Dean M. Ljubicic '06 (right) and co-driver Salvatore B. Pallante '06 (left) celebrate Ljubicic's come-from-behind victory in final round of the 2.007 mechanical design competition Thursday night. Ljubicic's robot employed a spinning device that he had not used previously in the competition, catching his opponent off guard.

Another scoring option, which was also used by many participants, was to spin a paddle wheel which was only accessible by driving up a ramp. The score was the maximum rotational speed of that shaft. This value was multiplied by the mass, in

grams, in the hole.

The last two scoring options, which were rarely, if ever, used, were to push a button on the table, which added ten times the number of seconds elapsed to the score, and to push mass through a small tunnel, which

multiplied the total score by two.

Multiple strategies used

Ljubicic relied on his blocking projectile to stop his opponents, but

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Masterpiece or Junkpile? Stata Opens Its Doors

By Frank Dabek
STAFF REPORTER

MIT's newest building, the Ray and Maria Stata Center, will be officially dedicated today.

Feature

William J. Mitchell, professor of architecture, said that the building, designed by Frank O. Gehry, is part of a wave of building on campus that is "reclaiming MIT's great tradition of

architectural innovation." Provost Robert A. Brown said he hopes that the many open spaces inside the \$280 million building, which he called the "new entrance to MIT," will draw students out and create the opportunity for "different forms of learning."

The building's residents have their own opinion, however. Natalia H. Gardiol G spoke for the majority (or possibly a very vocal minority) in an e-mail: "noisy, complicated,

orange carpet. hello? ... I want my money back."

The responses of building residents to their new space paint the early history of Stata as one of good intentions gone awry. A vision of collaborative spaces has become, for many students, a reality of working with little or no privacy. Gehry's name makes it easier to attract funding, but it also attracts "visitors" who turn a workplace into a tourist attraction. The building's

unique design will likely win awards, but it also makes finding the stairwell a non-trivial task. All of this in a building that came in at three times its original budget.

This is not to say that no students are happy with the new building. "I love the Stata center. Beautiful, interesting, artsy," wrote Bryan A. Ford G. A highly informal poll has "hate it" far outpacing "love it," however. One is left to wonder where vision and reality diverged.

Stata planning began in 1996

Planning for the Stata Center began in 1996, and the project was announced in January of 1997. At that time, MIT's Laboratory for Computer Science and the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (the two laboratories have since merged to form the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory) were slated to move to the building in 2000. The budget projection at the time of the announcement was \$95 million.

When Building 32 (Stata's name under MIT's numeric system of naming buildings) was finally occupied this year, 78,000 cubic yards of concrete had been poured around countless feet of #18 re-bar (the largest manufactured), one million bricks had been laid by hand, 1,000 students, faculty, and staff moved their belongings in 16,000 orange crates, and the center's budget had

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FRANK DABEK—THE TECH

Frank O. Gehry speaks at a media event prior to today's dedication of the Ray and Maria Stata Center. Gehry designed the \$280 million building, which is home to the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

OPINION

Two former MIT baseball players clarify facts about the baseball career of Jason E. Szuminski '01.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Villacorta elected GSC treasurer. LaVerdes makes delayed charges. Hazmat responds to improper acid dump in Tech Square.

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WORLD & NATION

FDA Rejects Morning-After Pill Without Prescription

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Federal drug regulators on Thursday rejected a drug maker's application to sell a morning-after pill over-the-counter because of concerns about whether young girls would be able to use it safely.

The Food and Drug Administration told the pill's maker, Barr Pharmaceuticals that before the drug could be sold without a prescription the company must either find a way to prevent young teens from getting it from store shelves or prove, in a new study, that young girls can understand how to use it without the help of a doctor. Company executives expressed confidence that they could clear those hurdles, although it was unclear how long that would take.

The decision was a surprise because in December, a panel of independent experts assembled by the FDA voted, 23-4, to recommend that the drug be sold over-the-counter. The majority concluded that the drug was not only effective but that women could be trusted to use it correctly without a physician's advice. The FDA normally follows the recommendations of its advisory panels.

Suicide Bomb Explodes Near U.S. Headquarters In Baghdad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb Thursday near the American occupation headquarters here, killing five Iraqi civilians and one American soldier, witnesses and military officials said.

The bomb exploded at a military checkpoint where cars were waiting to be searched before crossing a bridge leading to the headquarters. Twenty Iraqi civilians, three Iraqi police and two American soldiers were wounded in the blast, a military spokesman said.

A group linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant with ties to al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on Thursday on an Arabic-language Web site. Though American officials have not yet verified the statement's authenticity, they told news agencies that the bomb attack bore the signatures of Zarqawi.

"We may not have any verbal or physical evidence at this point, but it is certainly the calling card of a terrorist organization," a senior coalition official told Reuters.

Bush Says Rumsfeld Will Stay, Apologizes for Abuse of Iraqis

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush said on Thursday that he was sorry for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers, but vowed that the man in charge of the U.S. military, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, would remain in his job.

Bush's apology was made in the White House Rose Garden at the side of King Abdullah II of Jordan after they met in the Oval Office. The president, who had deplored the abuse but stopped short of an apology in Arab television interviews on Wednesday, appeared to direct his words to the king as the leader of an Arab nation.

"I told him I was sorry for the humiliation suffered by Iraqi prisoners and the humiliation suffered by their families," Bush said.

Bush pledged that his defense secretary would not be ousted, even as he acknowledged that he had chastised Rumsfeld 24 hours earlier for his failure to inform him about graphic photographs showing the American abuse of Iraqi captives at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad. "Secretary Rumsfeld has been the secretary during two wars and he is an important part of my Cabinet, and he will stay in my Cabinet," Bush said.

U.S. Knew Soldiers Abused Iraqi Prisoners for Months

By Neil A. Lewis and Eric Lichtblau

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The International Committee of the Red Cross regularly complained to senior U.S. officials in Iraq and in Washington over the last several months about prisoner abuses at Abu Ghraib prison, a spokesman for the group said on Thursday.

The spokesman, Roland Huguenin, said, "Our reports to the U.S. administration contained many aspects which have now been reported with clear descriptions of the treatment of prisoners."

Huguenin, who spoke by telephone from London, said the reports were based on the Red Cross' interviews with prisoners and "were very extensive and detailed."

"We knew everything that was going on," he said.

Huguenin would not describe the details of the reports, but he said that they included accounts of the abuses like those disclosed over the last week in news accounts involving prisoners made to strip naked and pose in demeaning positions. "We condemned most firmly these practices that are absolutely humiliating to anyone in the world."

He noted that some people had said that the offenses were "even more awful" for the Iraqi prisoners because, in Arab culture, that kind of treatment is unbearably shameful.

He said one thing that Red Cross officials did not know was that guards were taking photos of what was occurring.

Other human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Human Rights First, said this week that they had complained to the administration about reports of prisoner abuse and humiliation. Officials with the groups said they took personal appeals to L. Paul Bremer, head of the provision authority in Iraq, and Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, but that their appeals often seemed to fall on deaf ears.

"Unfortunately, we have not gotten the impression they've dealt with these issues very seriously," said Alexandra Arriaga, head of government relations for Amnesty International, which issued a report in March that cataloged reports of beatings, torture and other abuse in Iraq.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is the only group whose officials are allowed to interview the prisoners in Baghdad.

In exchange for such access, the Red Cross typically does not publicize its findings but reports them only to the host government. But in rare cases like the situation at Abu Ghraib, it makes its complaints public when its officials believe its recommendations have been ignored.

The committee reports of the abusive behavior, Huguenin said, were distributed to the prison authorities in Baghdad as well as to senior officials of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the U.S. civilian administration running Iraq. In addition, he said, the reports were given to senior officials in the Bush administration, but he declined to say which ones.

He said that it was the committee's practice to make its complaints known widely inside a government to prevent any one person from sitting on the report, allowing senior officials to claim ignorance later on.

The assertion that the Red Cross warned U.S. officials of mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq comes as the Bush administration is depicting a situation in which many senior officials were unaware of the problem until a set of photographs was shown on CBS last week.

Controversial Spy is Appointed Britain's New Intelligence Chief

By Sarah Lyall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

A career spy who presided over and approved a much-disputed British government dossier that asserted that Iraq had unconventional weapons was on Thursday named as the next chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6, Britain's equivalent of the CIA.

The spy, John Scarlett, 55, is currently chairman of the government's Joint Intelligence Committee. In that role, he oversaw the compilation of the dossier, which was released in September 2002. The weapons have not been found, and it appears now that British and U.S. intelligence officials relied on faulty information.

The move was immediately criticized by Prime Minister Tony Blair's political opponents, who said that the government should wait until it completes its inquiry into how possibly erroneous intelligence was used to justify Britain's involvement in the Iraq war before allowing Scarlett's appointment to go ahead.

"In today's world, Britain's Secret Intelligence Services is central to our national security," Michael Ancram, the foreign affairs spokesman for the Conservative Party, said in a statement. "And it is essential that the whole country has the fullest confidence in it."

"The government-appointed Butler inquiry is currently reviewing the whole question of intelligence, and the use made of it," he added.

"Given that John Scarlett is central to that review, and that the inquiry has not yet reported, I believe that this appointment at this time is inappropriate."

But Blair said Scarlett was recommended by a selection panel led by David Omand, Blair's security and intelligence coordinator. Saying that Sir Omand had worked independently of the government, Blair told reporters: "You can only imagine what you guys would have been saying to me if I had interfered with that process."

Scarlett — who joined MI6 in 1971 and who served in Moscow, Paris and Nairobi, Kenya, among other places — is to take over the job this summer, replacing Sir Richard Dearlove.

WEATHER

Perpetual Spring

By Robert Lindsay Korty
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

About fifty million years ago, Earth's climate started to cool. Through the Cretaceous period and into the early Cenozoic era, which began with the extinction of the dinosaurs sixty-five million years ago, palms grew across what is now the United States and forests populated the Arctic coast. There were crocodiles, turtles, lotus, and strange plants and animals inhabiting locations north of the Arctic Circle that are presently inhospitable. This weekend, like most over the past fifty million years, will not be as warm.

But first there is today: sunshine, May flowers, and warm temperatures will make today an enviable one. Cooler air across eastern Canada will slide south Saturday morning, leaving the weekend with a mixture of clouds and sun, but about 15-20°F (8-10°C) cooler than today.

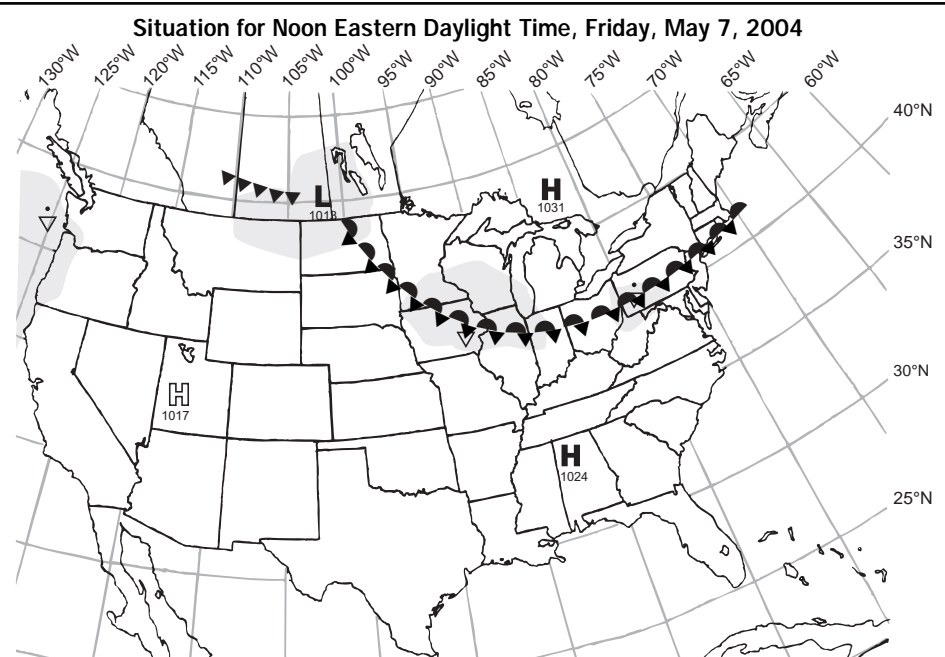
Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny and mild. High 74-79°F (23-26°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low of 45°F (7°C).

Saturday: Mostly cloudy and cooler; isolated shower possible. High 60°F (16°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High 59°F (15°C); low 45°F (7°C).



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

FAA Supervisor Destroyed Tape Of 9/11 Controllers' Statements

By Matthew L. Wald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

At least six air traffic controllers who dealt with two of the hijacked airliners on Sept. 11, 2001, made a tape recording a few hours later describing the events, but the tape was destroyed by a supervisor without anyone making a transcript or even listening to it, the Transportation Department said Thursday.

The taping began before noon on Sept. 11 at the New York Air Route Traffic Control Center, in Ronkonkoma, N.Y., where about 16 people met in a basement conference room known as the Bat Cave and passed around a microphone, each recalling his or her version of

the events of a few hours earlier. The recording included statements of five or 10 minutes each by controllers who had spoken by radio to people on the planes or who had tracked the aircraft on radar, the report said.

Officials at the center never told higher-ups of the tape's existence, according to a report made public on Thursday by the inspector general of the Transportation Department.

A quality-assurance manager at the center destroyed the tape several months after it was made, crushing the cassette in his hand, cutting the tape into little pieces and dropping them in different trash cans around the building, according to

the report. The tape had been made under an agreement with the union that it would be destroyed after it was superseded by written statements from the controllers, the report said.

The quality-assurance manager told investigators that he had destroyed the tape because he thought making it was contrary to Federal Aviation Administration policy, which calls for written statements, and because he felt that the controllers "were not in the correct frame of mind to have properly consented to the taping" because of the stress of the day.

None of the officials or controllers were identified in the report.

White House Requests \$25 Billion To Finance Troops in Middle East

By Stephen J. Glain
THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration told Congress Wednesday it would seek an additional \$25 billion to finance military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, breaking its pledge to resist such a move before the November presidential election.

Though lawmakers from both parties welcomed the request, many said it was inadequate, pointing out that the White House itself said earlier this year to expect a funding bill that could total \$50 billion.

"This is a partial payment at most," said Representative John M. Spratt, a South Carolina Democrat and ranking member of the House

Budget Committee.

Spratt and other legislators said they were informed Wednesday morning by White House Budget Director Joshua Bolten that the White House would submit its third special request for war funding as part of its budget proposal for fiscal 2005, which begins Oct. 1. Pressure on the Bush administration for additional spending had been building even from Republicans as prolonged fighting in Iraq depleted existing funds.

"It was clear there were resources our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan needed and the other members of the armed services committee brought this to their attention and they responded," said Michael Conallen, the chief of staff

to Representative Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican and vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

The White House request is expected to be formally submitted in about 30 days, said officials on Capitol Hill, and would be provided as a "reserve," or off-budget, spending bill that would resemble the previous two supplemental funding requests totaling \$149 billion. Spratt, whose aids have closely compared the costs of the Iraq war against the money allocated to finance it, said he estimates the conflict is costing \$75 billion at an annual rate. The additional \$25 billion would last until March, he said, making a fourth spending bill inevitable.

Defense Suggests More Suspects Aided Oklahoma City Bomb Plot

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MCALISTER, OKLAHOMA

A persistent cast of mystery men joined the elusive "John Doe No. 2" as defense lawyers on Thursday began their effort to sow doubts that Terry L. Nichols was Timothy J. McVeigh's sidekick in the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building nine years ago.

With the trial that could end in Nichols' execution now at its midpoint, witnesses opening the defense phase on Thursday told of spotting at least three other possible associates of McVeigh as the plot moved toward the explosion on April 19, 1995, that killed 168 people.

Two of the strangers — one described as wearing the same distinctive baseball cap depicted by the FBI in the sketch of a man supposedly accompanying McVeigh to the Ryder agency where he rented the truck for the bombing — were placed by witnesses at a motel where McVeigh stayed in Junction City, Kan.

Nichols, 49, in his regular uniform of gray blazer and white shirt, looked on impassively and at times with a fierce wide-eyed stare, occasionally jotting notes and leaning over to whisper to one of his three lawyers. He did not doze as he appeared to do last week during graphic accounts of the recovery of the remains of 19 children that left jurors weeping.

Massachusetts Aims To Cut Emission Of Greenhouse Gases

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Governor Mitt Romney plans to unveil a comprehensive agenda on climate change Thursday, which officials said would make Massachusetts the first state to consider the impact on greenhouse gases when state regulators evaluate highway projects and other public construction plans.

Massachusetts, which was the first state to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, would go further by basing its transportation planning and funding decisions in part on the greenhouse gases that projects would produce. The plan also suggests giving the owners of hybrid cars tax breaks and the right to use high-occupancy vehicle lanes even without passengers.

The Massachusetts Climate Protection Plan represents the state's effort to meet regional emissions goals that New England's governors and Eastern Canada's premiers embraced in 2001.

The plan was cheered by environmental groups, which had hoped for a strong signal that Romney would extend the previous administration's efforts to limit greenhouse gases.

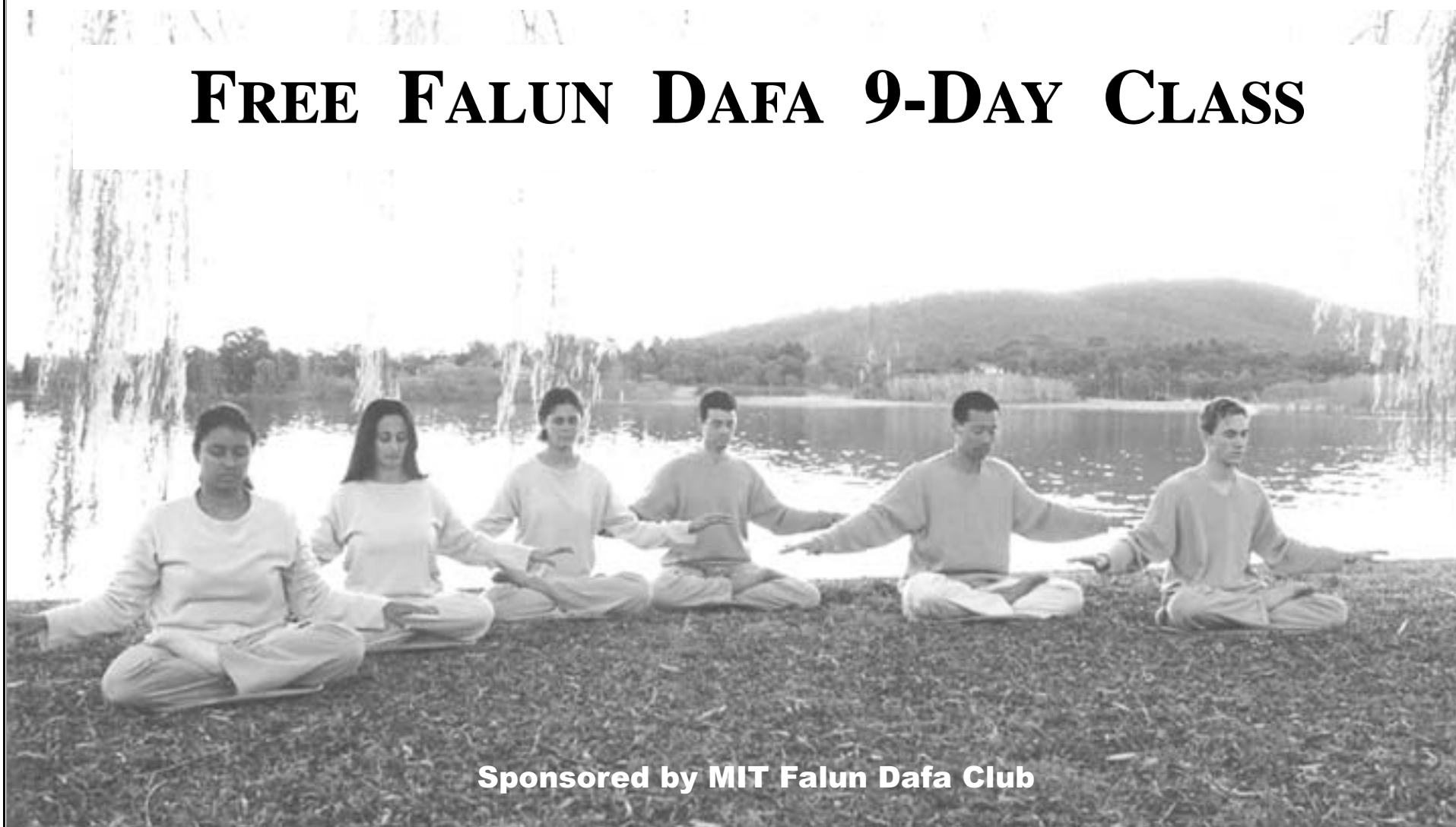
"Governor Romney is making it clear that he understands that failure to act on climate change is not an option," said Frank Gorke, of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. "And that he understands that, to rise to the challenge of reducing pollution, states have to lead by example."

TRUTHFULNESS

COMPASSION

TOLERANCE

FREE FALUN DAFA 9-DAY CLASS



Sponsored by MIT Falun Dafa Club

Date: May 10 – 18

Time: 7:30pm – 10:00pm, every night

Place: MIT Building 4 Room 149

Phone: Steve 617-471-3835

E-mail: falundafa-officers@mit.edu

Website: www.falundafa.org

Falun Dafa, also called Falun Gong, is a meditation practice that has brought better health and inner peace to millions around the world. All Falun Dafa activities are run by volunteers, absolutely free and open to general public.

OPINION

Head for Editorial

MIT's core set of General Institute Requirements combines depth with breadth, exposing all undergraduates to intensive fundamental courses in both the sciences and the humanities.

Editorial Nevertheless, the administration's decision to review the GIR curriculum is sure to spawn suggested additions to an already extensive common academic program. We believe that MIT should not overwhelm its students with requirements, but if it does expand the GIRs, it should add computer programming rather than a requirement on diversity.

The study of diversity is a valid and logical area for curriculum development, but it has not yet reached the maturity required as a field to be taught alongside history and music as a HASS-D. Being a student at MIT does provide some inherent understanding of cultural and individual differences via its remarkably diverse student body, but the fact remains that students spend much of their time working and studying in a homogenizing environment. An increased emphasis of diversity in the curriculum could certainly help MIT graduates thrive in their private, professional, and civic experiences. At the same time, diversity is not a subject deserving of the status as a GIR requirement. As a concept, diversity is not well-understood or well-defined enough to successfully teach students in one class how to better appreciate and feel comfortable with diversity. MIT should develop more diversity-themed HASS courses to help support the issue and our understanding of it, but creating a diversity GIR of the same educational value as a history HASS-D class is not currently feasible.

A more logical candidate for a new GIR, keeping to MIT's core value as a technical institute, would be introductory-level computer programming and science. A reasonable expectation of MIT students is that they learn to program at a respectable level by the time they graduate. With simulations and other soft-

ware becoming more and more involved in all areas of science and engineering, students should at the very least be aware of the role computers play in their field of study. Introducing a computer programming and science requirement that, much like the Institute Lab requirement, can be satisfied by a range of well-designed courses spanning a number of majors is a sensible reform. It would recognize the fundamental importance of computers to modern practice in science and engineering.

Even computer science may not merit an additional GIR, however. Academic exploration should serve as a key component of the curriculum, even at a technical school like MIT. The current GIRs dominate almost all of freshman year for many students, inhibiting their ability to explore different majors. As the GIR taskforce progresses through its review, it should remember how extensive the current core curriculum is and how limiting adding additional requirements would prove. While there is a good argument for adding computer science, the fact remains that students have four short years in which they must be able to both fulfill MIT's requirements and explore subjects that appeal to their individual curiosity and passions.

We should take pride in how our literature majors are well-versed in calculus and chemistry, and we should recognize how studying in a wide variety of fields increases our understanding and knowledge. MIT's broad, interdisciplinary education would not be possible without the strong and extensive core program the GIRs provide. At the same time, mandating subjects, no matter how important they seem, should be limited so freedom of choice and the ability to explore remain intact. While we applaud efforts to reassess the entire GIR program, we caution against adding additional units to the core curriculum. MIT students must always have the flexibility to explore their passions, because there is no better time than now.



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Letters To The Editor

Graffiti on Campus

To All Members of the Community,

Over the past several months, there has been an active campaign of hurtful graffiti targeted against Asian members of the MIT community. The content of these graffiti ranges from the cruel to overt threats of violence.

The graffiti are written in black indelible marker, and are not confined to any specific area of campus, but have surfaced throughout the Institute. The MIT Police, working through Facilities, have been successful in removing most of the hurtful slogans immediately upon their discovery.

This is an issue that affects not only the ethnic group targeted, but everyone in this community. Therefore, we are seeking the help of each and every member of MIT to assist in bringing an end to this repulsive practice.

If you come upon an example of these graffiti, do not ignore it. Please report it to the MIT Police as soon as possible so that we may make a record of it and expedite its removal. Further, if you see anyone engaged in this practice or if you have knowledge about who may be doing this, please let us

Continued on Page 6

Erratum

The caption issue for the May 4 photo of two men mudwrestling during steer roast misspelled the name of Stephen Rinehart '93.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editor, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

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

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

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

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Defending Szuminski's Candid Comments

Jeffrey J. Billing
and Alvie P. Loreto

In the April 13 issue of *The Tech*, Christopher Anderson opines negatively toward recent media quotes of MIT alumnus and current professional ballplayer Jason E. Szuminski '01

Letter to The Editor

that, in defending MIT Athletics, Anderson applies scant third-hand information about Szuminski's collegiate career to make his supporting points. As four-year MIT baseball players (three years as teammates of Szuminski), and senior-year co-captains, we feel compelled to enlighten Anderson and anyone else who reacted with passionate assent to Anderson's opinions.

Before touching upon Szuminski's comments toward the MIT baseball program of the past, we *must* emphasize that things have vastly improved. In regards to the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER), one needs only to visit campus to see the remarkable newly-installed facilities. In regards to the baseball program, a new, extremely knowledgeable coaching staff has been hired, and the future of the program is bright. With a strong underclassman core complementing these qualified coaches, now is the most exciting time in recent history to be a current or prospective member of the MIT baseball team.

With that being said, let us address Anderson's accusation that "Szuminski betrayed the entire department that made his Major League Baseball gig possible."

First, Szuminski's path to the major leagues started in 1999 in the New England College Baseball League (NECBL), a summer wooden-bat league comprised mainly of NCAA Division I players. It was here, *not* during MIT games, that scouts first saw Szuminski pitch. He was the NECBL all-star game's winning pitcher, and only after his over-the-top summer performance did scouts express interest in attending MIT games to see him pitch. Incidentally, he made the NECBL through no assistance from anyone within DAPER. Rather, Szuminski himself

e-mailed NECBL coaches and found his own transportation to Providence for a try-out with the only team with a remaining roster spot.

Second, once scouts became interested in seeing Jason play at MIT, the coach at the time refused to cooperate with Jason or the scouts. He failed to implement a pitching rotation — a standard baseball strategy which plans that pitcher X will throw on day Y. Instead, an hour before game time the coach selected his starting pitcher (the coach *did* know who he was going to pitch long before, but he liked to defy the standard convention to emphasize his personal ideology about "being prepared for every game"; he did not at all believe it was counterproductive to his players). As a result, when scouts would call inquiring about Szuminski's status, the coach would say he wasn't sure, but maybe Jason would throw today... or tomorrow... or the next day. Scouts would then call Szuminski directly (and even at his home in Texas) trying to find out when and where they could see him pitch. We remember vividly how frustrating this experience was for Szuminski. Additionally, because it actually prevented some scouts from seeing him pitch, it empirically reduced his draft chances. (Luckily he threw well on the days that scouts did come, and the rest of Jason's improbable journey is history.)

Any athletic coach is not supposed to make it *harder* to achieve success — he or she should assist team members in recognizing and capitalizing upon all athletic opportunities at hand. But Jason received no such support, neither from his coach nor from an athletic department that constantly looked with passive indifference upon a fundamentally unqualified baseball coach who produced five losing seasons in six years, including an 8-43 record from 2001-2002. Being that this situation was the biggest roadblock to his dream, one would expect Szuminski to harbor some lingering animosity.

Thus, it was no surprise to us to see Jason's comments in Jim Caple's ESPN.com

interview. In our opinion, it was exceedingly considerate of Szuminski to never have brought these issues up in prior interviews. During his four-year journey through the ranks of professional baseball, he has been interviewed multiple times, so he has had ample opportunities to convey these negative feelings towards MIT athletics — yet he never brought the topic up himself. Only when ESPN broached the subject and then prodded him for an answer did he respond accordingly.

Anderson ends his column by saying he doesn't "feel like cheering for [Szuminski], he doesn't seem to be cheering for us." It so happens that upon the hiring of the new baseball coaching staff in September 2003, we exchanged e-mails with assistant coach Chris Campassi to wish the new coaching staff good luck and offer alumni support. Szuminski carbon-copied on our e-mails and responded to Campassi Sept. 16 with the following reply: "Chris, I just wanted to chime in wishing y'all good luck with the new program. I'm sure you realize how excited most of your players and the recent alums are to have [a new coach]. Hopefully you still have enough guys psyched to play baseball and can quickly build a fun and competitive team ... Best of luck, Jason Szuminski"

The truth is that Jason and the rest of us alumni want nothing more than to see the MIT baseball program succeed, perhaps to the point of producing more professional-caliber players. However, the program's future is bright only because past players endured so frustrating an experience for so long that they eventually delivered an ultimatum to DAPER to "either remove the coach or cut the program." (Obviously, this was a desperate and less-than-ideal approach; we concur with Brian Chase's April 13 *Tech* article ["A Focused Look at MIT Athletics"] in hoping more ideal conduits are put in place for feedback to DAPER.) Current MIT athletes should not be scolding Szuminski for telling the truth

Szuminski, Page 6

Who Can Save Africa?

Basil Enwegbara

Just like any great people at a historic juncture, Africans today are crying out for leadership. They are looking for a messiah to show them the way, a messiah endowed with the power to ignite their passion and inspire the best in them. They are impatiently waiting for a leader who not only will counter the great forces of status quo but will also be capable of persuading and mobilizing people.

But in the absence of the awaited leader, Africans have acted like a people without direction. We have simply embraced "easy" ways, accepting poverty as if we had no other choice. And more frightening is our willingness to place our destiny in others' hands. In doing so, we have come to believe we can simply contract out development to those "specially endowed," and that out of sheer sympathy they must come to our rescue.

In Africa, narrow, short-term gains are everyone's goals, leading to confusion everywhere — in politics, in religion, and in economy — especially since public office holders are fully aware they may not last long or have a second chance. Little wonder Africa is today littered with so many failed, corrupt projects, making it extremely difficult for any serious projects to take place in the region.

The enforcement of the structural adjustment policies of the IMF and the World Bank in the 1980s dramatized the already difficult situation. These policies stifled local economies and made it popular for privileged Africans to seek greener pastures outside the continent. Since governments had their hands off when any form of social development — including education — was concerned, Western colleges and universities replaced their African counterparts for the education of Africans, particularly the rich. It didn't end there. In fact, those who can afford it have come to believe that it will even serve the best interests of their returning children — if at all they ever return — to inherit the status quo.

Today the result is glaring. Africans have compromised the future for narrow gains, and the cleverest people, badly needed to help lead the continent's economic development, are now a giveaway to western economies. It's

Africa, Page 6

A Realist Critique of U.S. Iraq Policy

Adam Kolasinski

As American casualties in Iraq mount, President Bush's Iraq policy has come under intense criticism. While Bush deserves criticism for his Iraq policy, much of it has been erroneous. Let us sift the valid criticism from the nonsense.

Many critics have asserted that Bush lied about Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction to get us into the war, since it is now apparent that Saddam Hussein did not have any actual stockpiles of such weapons. Such criticism is outrageous because U.S. intelligence agencies were certain that Hussein did have WMD stockpiles, a fact that can be verified by a myriad of sources, including Bob Woodward's new book and Kenneth Pollack's article in the January/February *Atlantic*. Furthermore, while it may be true that Hussein did not have any stockpiles of ready-to-use chemical or biological weapons, he did possess the materials and technology to manufacture such weapons and was funding an effort to obtain nuclear weapons, as is documented in David Kay's report.

Other critics, while admitting that Bush never lied, charge that he misled the public by omitting mention of intelligence that seemed to indicate Hussein's nuclear program was only a minor threat. This criticism has merit, but given that Iraq's nuclear program was only a small part of the case for war, the biological and chemical programs taking center stage, Bush's transgressions here seem minor. Unfortunately, all wartime presidents hyped their wars, and Bush's hype is minimal compared, for example, to Bill Clinton's exagger-

ation of Kosovo Serb war crimes by several orders of magnitude.

Others have charged that Bush's strategy was excessively unilateral. On its face, this charge is demonstrably false since many nations, including Australia, Britain, Poland, and Italy, contributed troops. Those important countries that protested or sat out were not going to help no matter what. China, France, Germany, and Russia had financial interests in keeping Hussein in power.

Turkey worried the war might encourage Kurdish nationalism. Yes, we recently lost Spain's help, but one cannot blame Bush for Spanish cowardice.

Bush's true fault has been a failure to articulate the strategic imperative of the war. Before the war, Bush was acting as if he were a prosecutor, trying to prove that Saddam violated UN resolutions in order to justify his ouster, as if great powers need some legal pretext in order to eliminate an annoying rogue regime. Instead of making a legalistic argument, Bush should have argued that we were taking Hussein out because it was in the West's strategic interests to do so.

Situated in between three countries that either actively sponsor or tolerate radical Islamic terrorists, Iraq has great strategic importance. The ability to move bases out of Saudi Arabia to Iraq will allow us to pressure the Saudis to crack down on Islamic radicals. Iraq will make a convenient base from which to conduct operations aiding the Iranian resis-

tance and to coerce Syria into stopping its sponsorship of radicals. We cannot win our war on radical Islam until we achieve these three objectives. Furthermore, while Hussein may not have yet had an alliance with Al-Qaeda, he was aiding other Islamic terrorists. Such aid, and the fact that he shared some interests with Al-Qaeda, made likely a future alliance, one which would be particularly dangerous given his capability of manufacturing chemical and biological weapons. Throw in the benefit of Iraqi oil coming to market, and the case for war becomes irrefutable.

Instead of making such a case based on geopolitical strategy, Bush attempted to base everything on WMD, and now that WMD have not been found, on democratizing Iraq. Neither argument is persuasive. Other rogue regimes possess WMD. Many countries are not democracies. Why single out Iraq?

Inability to articulate the strategic importance of our presence in Iraq appears to be causing Bush to engage in foolhardy occupation policy. To realize the strategic benefits of the war, it is imperative that a stable, friendly government be installed in Iraq as soon as possible. Whether such a government is democratic matters little, so long as it is not wildly unpopular or an egregious violator of human rights. Bush, however, is prioritizing democracy over our strategic interests, to the detriment of the latter. Democracy will not likely succeed in a primitive, quasi-tribal country like Iraq, as the experiences of Haiti, Zimbabwe, and countless other places seem to indicate. We can hold elections in Iraq, but one, we probably won't like the outcome and two, whoever wins will likely follow in the footsteps of Aristide or Mugabe and become a useless thug. Scholar Daniel Pipes rightly noted that our interests would be best served by installing in Iraq a friendly, "democratically-minded strongman" in the tradition of Ataturk or the Hashemite monarchs.

There are plenty of moderates in Iraq, such

as the associates of the Ayatollah al-Sistani, who have a popular following and who, with American help, could come to rule Iraq the way Abdullah rules Jordan. We should pick a popular moderate and offer him power in exchange for his leading his followers to fight the Sunni insurgents and the Iranian-backed Shiite radicals. Iraqis will be more willing to fight for a local like Sistani than Paul Bremer. For all its faults, the British Empire demonstrated that ruling by proxy through favored local factions is an effective method of occupation.

Yet instead of picking a desirable faction, the Bush administration, in its desire for democracy, has foolishly sought to give all factions a voice and favored none. Al-Sadr's faction, for example, now giving us no end of trouble, never made secret its desire for Iranian-style theocracy. Yet the Bush administration tolerated them, squandering several opportunities to neutralize al-Sadr. Our support of a Baathist general in Fallujah is another example. If we are to achieve our strategic objectives, we must ensure that those Iraqis who will make good allies end up in power.

Bush must disabuse himself of neo-Wilsonian delusions about democracy. Many countries in the world are not democratic, yet only a small subset of them breeds terrorism. To win our war we must destroy those who sponsor the radical Islam that causes global terrorism. A government of an Islamic country need not be democratic to aid in this task, as Jordan and Egypt demonstrate. The experience of Turkey suggests that the purging of radical Islam from a country by a benevolent dictator may even be a necessary first step to lasting democracy. Yes, it would be nice if we could make Iraq democratic immediately, but the meager, unlikely-to-be-realized benefits from attempting it do not justify the risks.

Adam C. Kolasinski is a graduate student in financial economics.

Rethinking Africa

Africa, from Page 5

mind-boggling that nothing is being done to reverse Africa's brain drain. To say the least, it is a tragedy. Future generations, historians included, will find themselves perplexed not because we failed to look ourselves in the mirror, but because we expected others to take responsibility on our behalf. They will find it incomprehensible that we strongly hoped that some distant nations would come to our rescue, even when never in history has any distant nation ever left its own problems to go and solve another's.

As humanitarian as humans can be, we always offer aid after weighing our own interests. We first ascertain the costs of humanitarianism, and should there be any doubts, not only will we not help, but we may go so far as to try to ensure that those in need do not succeed even on their own. We do so because of the simple law of human survival. No amount of moralization will change this law.

Ability to recognize these realities will help Africans begin to find the right solutions to their problems. Understanding that the uniqueness of African problems will require some unique and homegrown solutions is essential and is the right way to begin. Recognizing that there are no shortcuts or magic solutions, understanding that there's no great success without accompanying risk, sacrifices, and trial and error learning, and appreciating that the size of the problem also defines the size of the opportunity will make us more prepared to face today's challenges.

More importantly, giving everyone an equal opportunity to participate and to experiment will help ignite the entrepreneurial vigor in most Africans. The day we begin believing in ourselves, trusting one another, treating one another with respect, and praising and giving credit to deserving fellow Africans is the day our development begins to take strong roots. The day we guarantee everyone's economic freedom is the day African capitalism emerges. And more importantly, the day we stop spending billions of dollars annually in defense and start channeling that money into education, health care, and agriculture is the day we really know how to put our money where our mouths are.

Africans need more actions than blueprint declarations if they want to become a competitive member of the global economy. They need an African central bank and an "afro currency," not just to ease regional trade but also to reduce present dependence on non-African currencies and their associated transaction costs. Africans will welcome a unified Africa in which governments do less to divide them or obstruct their free movement, where goods and services move freely not only because that will guarantee them access to a huge market but also because it will facilitate cross-border flows of capital across Africa. The presence of a regional assembly making laws, a regional police force maintaining law and order, and a regional peacekeeping force making war a thing of the past will begin to cement regional integration. Africans must do these things not to impress anyone; it is Africa's future that is at stake.

MIT Baseball Improves Quality

Responds to Criticism, Hires New Coach

Szuminski, from Page 5

about his experiences any more than they should scorn today's student-athletes for submitting critical feedback to their superiors. Were it not for mounting complaints, initiated by Szuminski and continuing through six seasons' worth of MIT ballplayers, the baseball program would likely be in the same decrepit state as it was in Jason's time.

In closing, Szuminski's candid comments

did cast a negative light on MIT athletics, but they were the cold, hard truth regarding his particular time there, not "non-constructive criticisms" or parting shots intended to shame the Institute. Szuminski's outspoken yet sensible approach toward life, from his MIT days of past to his MLB days of today, has been a key building block in the Institute constantly re-examining and improving its athletic department through the feedback of its student participants. First and foremost an engineer,

Szuminski has always had the mindset to elicit improvements in the structural integrity of his personal environments. Judging by today's rejuvenated state of MIT athletics (and in particular MIT Men's Baseball), Jason Szuminski is every bit as proud of DAPER as the Institute should be of the first Brass Rat big-leaguer.

Jeffrey J. Billing '01 and Alvie P. Loreto '01 played for the MIT baseball team from 1998-2001, and captained the team in 2001.

Letters To The Editor

Continued from Page 4

know. You may contact us at 617-252-1703.

This truly is a community problem and will only end with community involvement.

Thank you,
John DiFava
Chief of MIT Police

Noticeably lacking in the recent reportage — and in an accompanying apologia masquerading as editorial — is 1) a clear presentation of the facts of the case and 2) a clear and stated commitment to maintain the position of ombudsman at *The Tech*.

The facts of the case should not turn on personalities and thin skin and should be presented to the readers as a matter of course. Whatever infraction was committed and punishment meted should be put forth and not shirked. You have removed the readerships direct link to the editorial board. You must have justification for this action and you must detail that justification. If you wish ever to be taken seriously by that readership which you have so callously stripped of a voice, you will

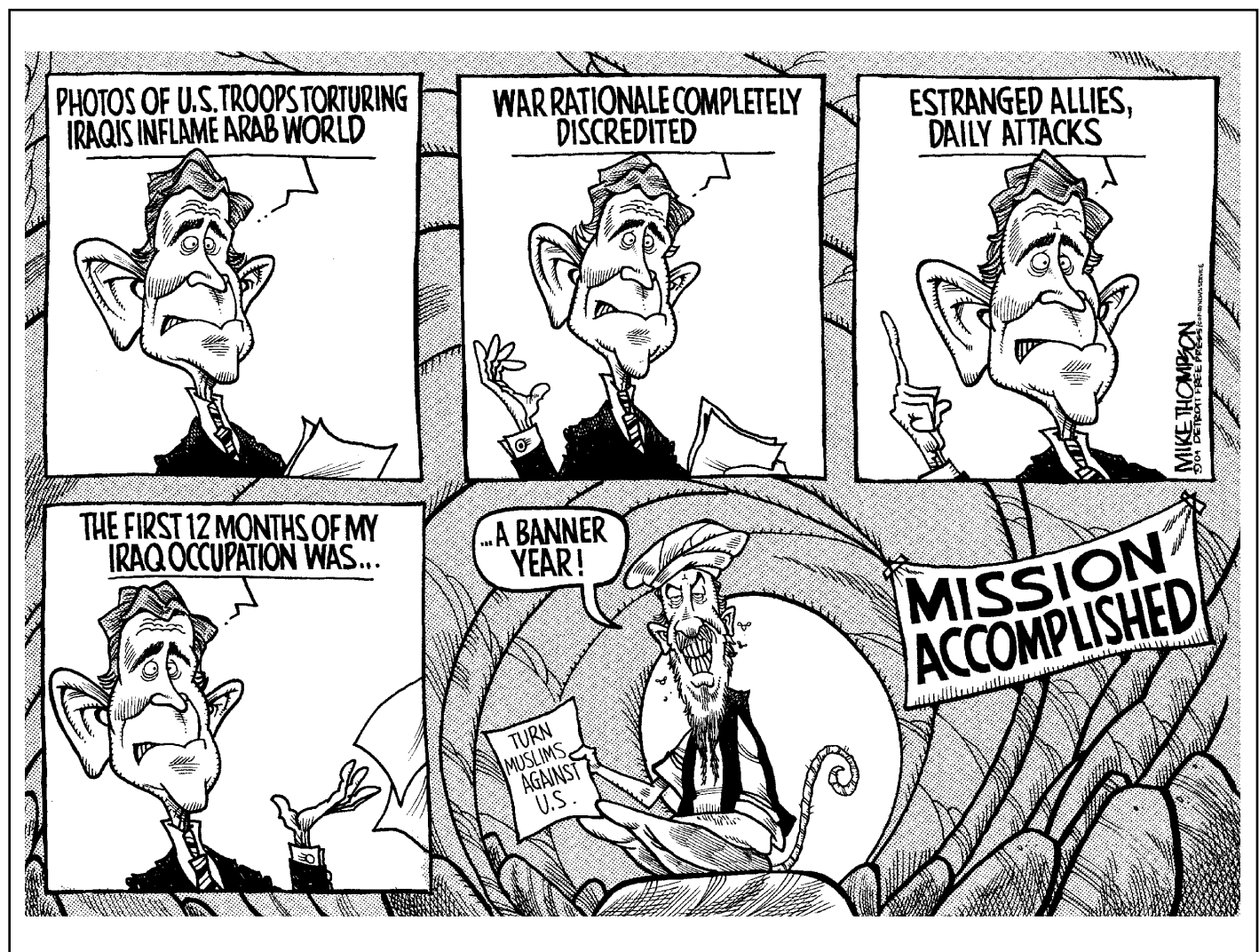
do this immediately.

The position of ombudsman should be filled immediately and not left to languish. Anything less is clear legitimization of a puerile emotionalism that puts the fact of criticism (harsh or not) above the reality of the readerships views (harsh or not). From where I sit John Hawkinson was doing a good job of it. I have seen nothing in print from *The Tech* that contradicts this view. He should be rehired immediately or, if the true facts of the case — to which I am not privy — bode otherwise, then the position must be filled immediately by someone of equal or greater facility with the written word and critical analyses.

Petr Swedock
LIDS Research Staff

Ombudsman Decision

If *The Tech's* own reporting is to be believed and the words of the executive board to be taken at face value, the inescapable conclusion is that MIT possesses the rarest of rare breeds — the thin-skinned editor — in abundance and in crucial positions.



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Filler Space WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO LIZ & DAVE

by Jason Burns



Trio

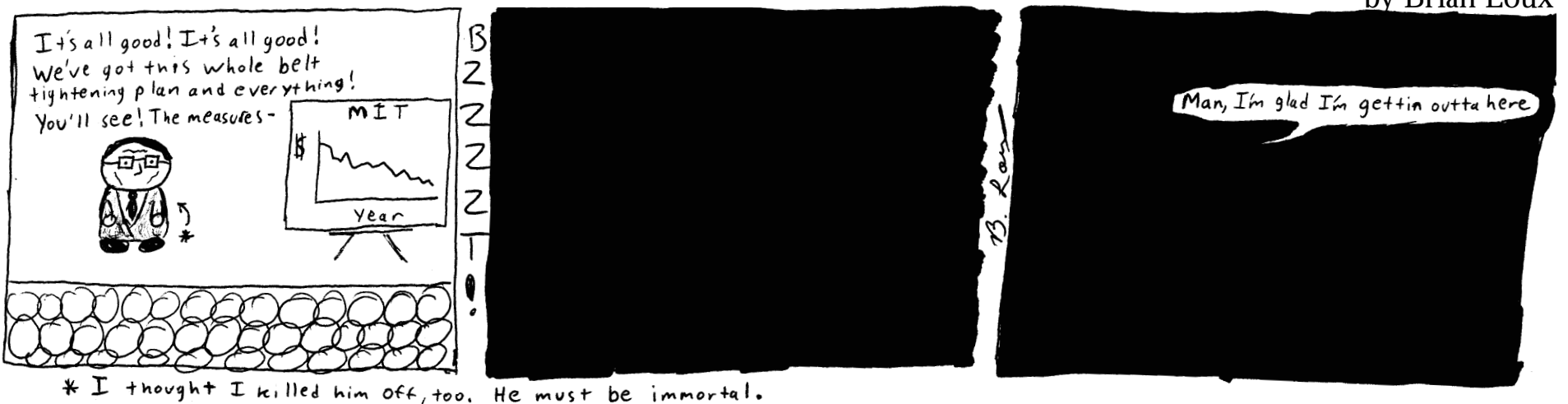
Trio trivia: What song does Mina think describes her best? alum.mit.edu/www/emie

by Emezie Okorafor



State of the Institute Address

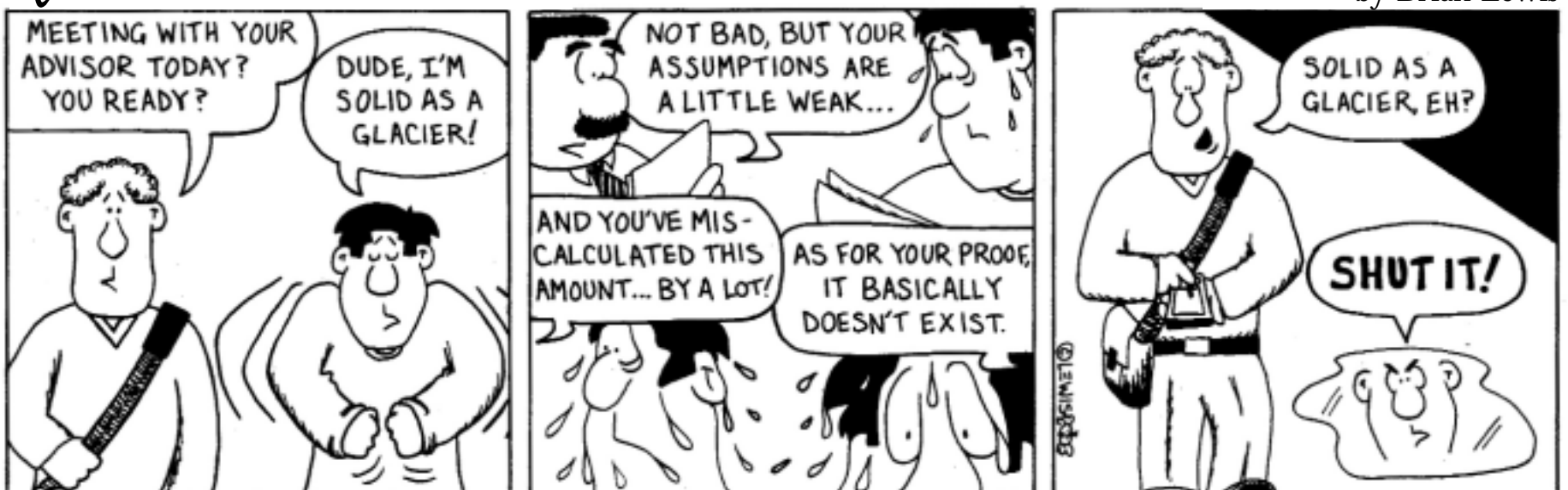
by Brian Loux



* I thought I killed him off, too. He must be immortal.

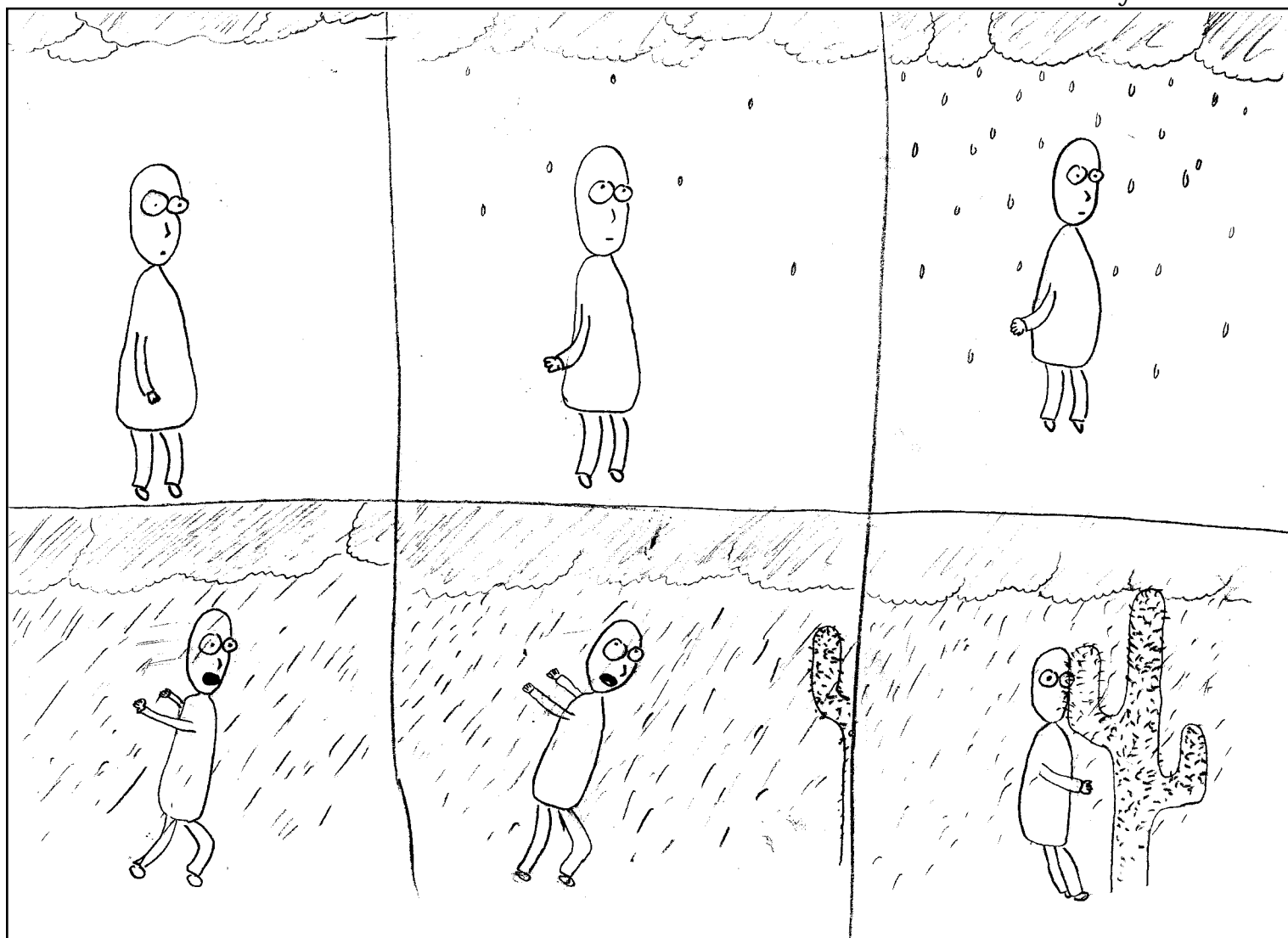
QED

by Brian Lewis



I Live in A Giant Bucket

by Adam Love

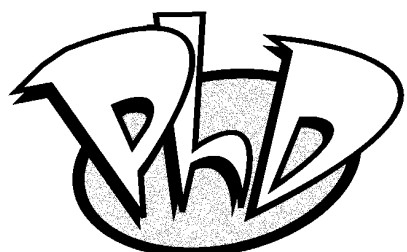


FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams



PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



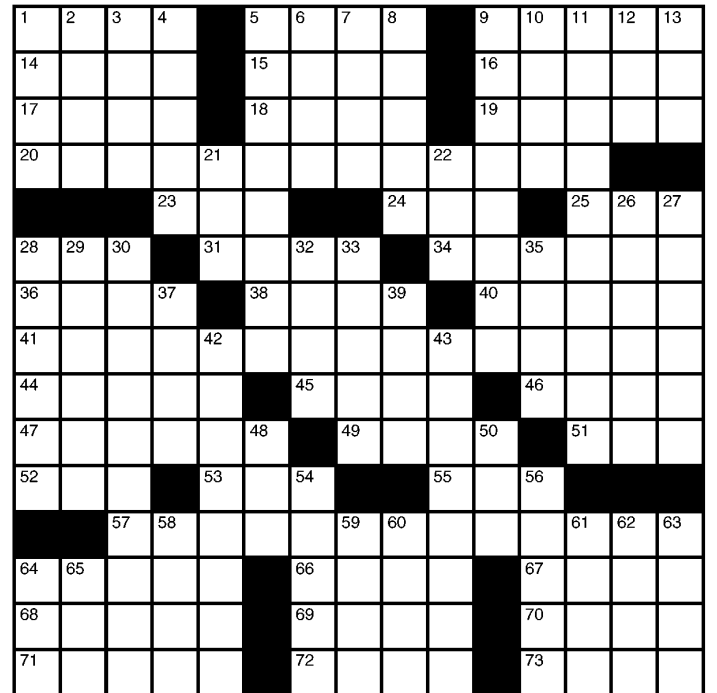
THINGS TO DO WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR EXPERIMENT TO FINISH (OR SIMULATION TO RUN, OR CODE TO COMPILE, OR...)



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Custard treat</p> <p>5 Biggers' detective</p> <p>9 Checked out the joint</p> <p>14 Prom transport</p> <p>15 Singer Falana</p> <p>16 Left bed</p> <p>17 "Typee" sequel</p> <p>18 Armageddon in brief</p> <p>19 Put into service again</p> <p>20 Medical specialty</p> <p>23 Dawn goddess</p> <p>24 Poetic contraction</p> <p>25 "48 ___"</p> <p>28 High peak</p> <p>31 Fifty percent</p> <p>34 Pointed stake</p> <p>36 Superman's sweetie</p> <p>38 Dove sounds</p> <p>40 One Judd</p> | <p>41 Whole shebang</p> <p>44 Invite to enter</p> <p>45 Danny or Stubby</p> <p>46 Dispatched</p> <p>47 Greek advisor</p> <p>49 Meadows to a poet</p> <p>51 Circulars</p> <p>52 Retirement grp.</p> <p>53 Ump's call</p> <p>55 Narrow inlet</p> <p>57 "If I Had a Hammer" group</p> <p>64 Italian violinmaker</p> <p>66 Legendary lawman</p> <p>67 Rene's friend</p> <p>68 Tag line from Aesop</p> <p>69 Florence flower</p> <p>70 Actress Foch</p> <p>71 Like a nitpicker</p> <p>72 Adolescent</p> <p>73 Words missing from theme entries</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Ice mass</p> <p>2 Peru's capital</p> <p>3 Latin love</p> <p>4 Opposite of everybody</p> <p>5 One of superior quality</p> <p>6 Diamond name</p> <p>7 Thanks ___!</p> <p>8 Night in Nuremburg</p> <p>9 North or South state</p> <p>10 Precinct</p> <p>11 Asian nation</p> <p>12 Superman's letter</p> <p>13 Billy ___ Williams</p> <p>21 Expression of wonderment</p> <p>22 Grave letters?</p> <p>26 Repair again</p> <p>27 Wading birds</p> <p>28 Pinkerton and Ramsay</p> | <p>29 Sets free</p> <p>30 Refutes by detailed examination</p> <p>32 Appearance</p> <p>33 Word with point or length</p> <p>35 Automobiles</p> <p>37 Revue part</p> <p>39 Actress lone</p> <p>42 Arrogantly</p> <p>43 Influence</p> <p>48 Regret</p> <p>50 RSVP part</p> <p>54 Trick partner</p> <p>56 Maytag rival</p> <p>58 French state</p> <p>59 Peel</p> <p>60 "Rule Britannia" composer</p> <p>61 Dictator Idi</p> <p>62 Peel</p> <p>63 Some votes</p> <p>64 Elec. unit</p> <p>65 A Stodge</p> |
|--|---|--|--|



Bridge

By Jason Chiu

East Dealer
Both Vul.

- ♠ T762
- ♥ 3
- ♦ 8753
- ♣ 9863

- ♠ AQJ853
- ♥ A2
- ♦ A96
- ♣ 74

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| N | | |
| W | E | |
| | S | |

- ♠ K9
- ♥ KQ754
- ♦ KJ
- ♣ AQJ2

- ♠ 4
- ♥ JT986
- ♦ QT42
- ♣ KT5

| | | | |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| 6NT | All Pass | | |

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | 6♣ | Pass |
| 6♥ | Pass | 7♠ | All Pass |

Another critical tool for getting to odds-on grand slams is asking the right questions. In this deal from the First Qualifying Session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs, asking the right question means the difference between languishing in 6NT or enjoying the matchpoints for 7♠.

After I made a pointless stall with the New Minor Forcing 3♣, the auction ceased to be manageable. The information that my partner does not have three spades nor six hearts is irrelevant, since we have not settled on a strain. We cuebid several controls, but eventually stopped in 6NT. My partner squeezed South in hearts and diamonds, but +1470 was worth only 13.5 matchpoints on a 25 top.

Then he pointed out a general principle which included a nearly certain path to this grand slam. If I stepped back from the ecstasy of slam investigation to realize that the ♣A and the kings of the remaining suits would give play to 7♠, then the correct call was clear. Bidding a forcing, and mildly slammish, 3♠ would enable us to cuebid fruitfully, eventually allowing him to conclude that I held six strong spades and two red aces. Bidding the grand slam would be worth 21.5 matchpoints.

Answer from the April 30 column: The question was slightly more tricky than I had intended, and no correct answers were received. If North-South avoids taking the ♥A or leading clubs, then 6♦ doubled shall fail by four tricks. Any such slip would allow West to establish an extra trick in dummy.

Question, due at chiujw@yahoo.com by Tuesday, May 11. Why did I never choose to bid 4NT? An entry shall be chosen at random from the correct responses to win a free play at the MIT Draper Lab's Bridge Club. The winner and answer shall be printed on May 14.

HOW TO USE THE BATHROOM.

You're probably saying to yourself, any four-year-old knows how to use the bathroom. But you may not know that you use more water in the bathroom than anywhere else in your home. In fact, between the toilet, the shower and the sink you can use up to 55 gallons a day. Multiply that by the number of homes in the world, and that's a lot of natural resources going down the drain. Now, we're not saying you should stop taking showers or brushing your teeth. We're just suggesting some simple bathroom training. For instance, when you're brushing your teeth, turn off the water. Do the same when

you're shaving. And just because your shower sounds like an opera hall, don't feel the need to sing one. Shorter songs make for shorter showers. And for the biggest culprit of them all, the toilet, try putting a weighted jug in the tank. It will help save water every time you flush. Plus, don't forget to turn out the lights when you leave. You'll be helping to conserve electricity.

Save up to 15% more water by installing a weighted jug in your toilet tank.

And oh yeah, if you don't think you'll remember these things, take this newspaper with you the next time you go. This message brought to you by the 43 environmental charities that make up Earth Share. For more tips or information on how you can help, visit EarthShare.org, 2000 International Drive NW, Suite 2K (ADD), Washington, D.C. 20008. Earth Share

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Student Pugwash Forum:

Monday, May 10, 7pm

The Future of Environmentalism

MIT Room 54-100

Panelists

- Travis Franck Technology and Policy Program
- Sarah Fredericks Lutheran Episcopal Ministry
- Gillian Harding MIT College Republicans
- Ken Nesmith The Tech
- Jerrad Pierce GreenMap MIT
- Philip Sheehy Students for Global Sustainability
- David Strozzi MIT Greens

Moderator

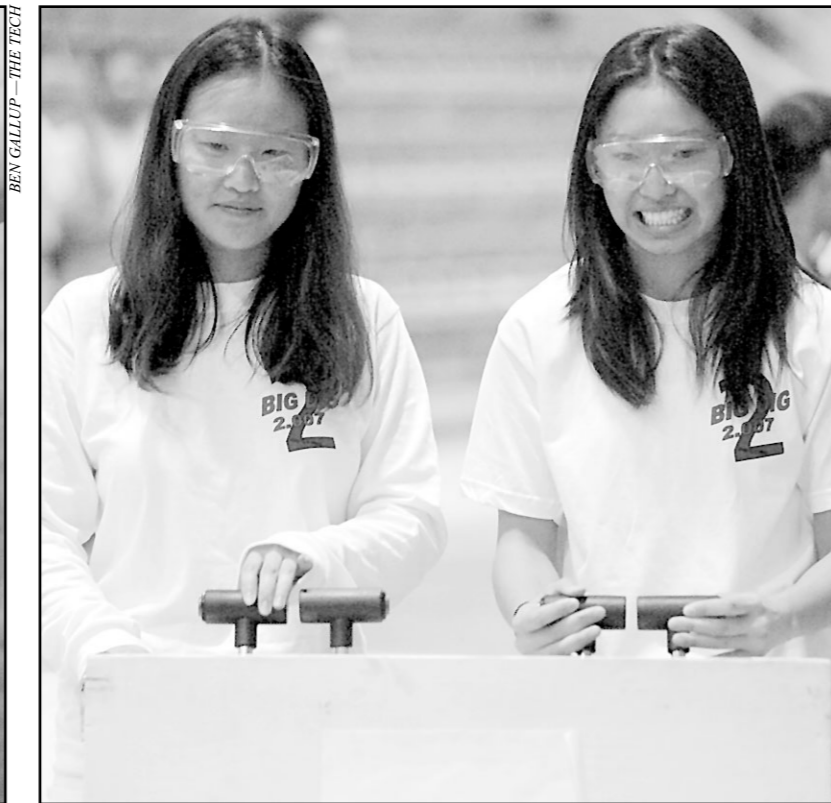
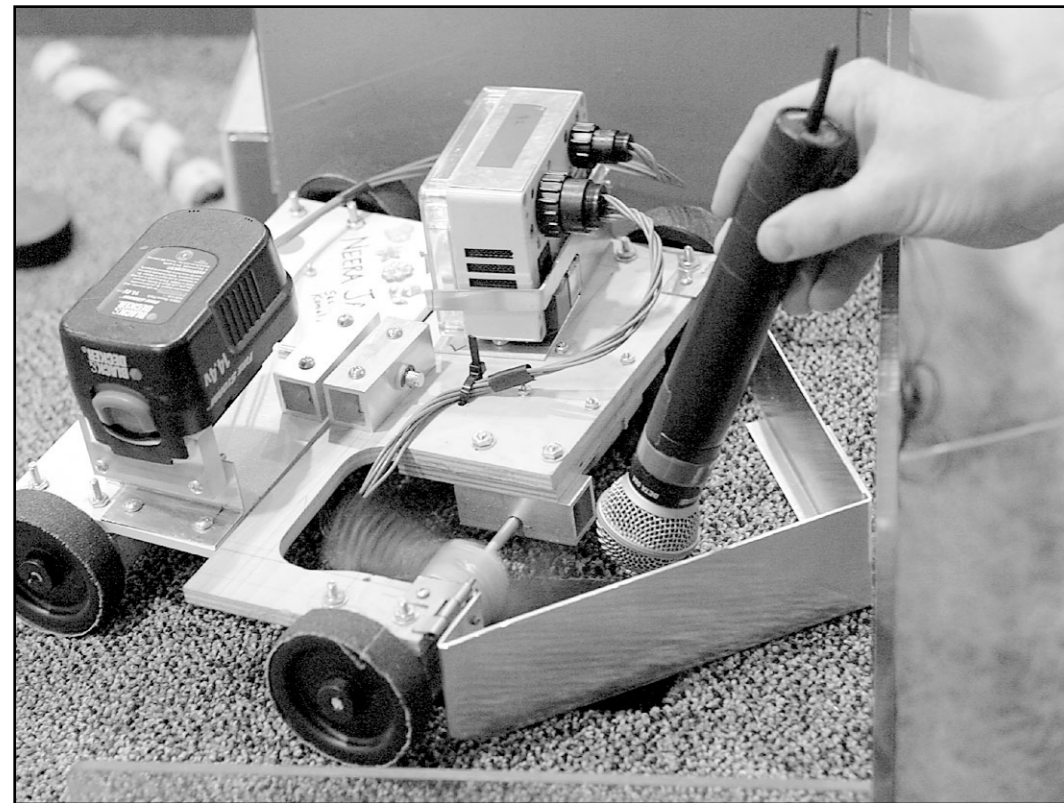
Daniel Collins MIT Student Pugwash

web.mit.edu/pugwash

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Laughing is one form of mental hygiene.



Students Fight for 2.007 Glory

Contest More Complicated Than Last Year, But Students Finish Robots Earlier in Term

2.007, from Page 1

he also built in several offensive mechanisms capable of scoring points. "I expected to do well," Ljubicic said. "My goal was to place in the top four" because of the trip to Japan, he said.

In the finals, Ljubicic was able to spin the paddle wheel to win the round and the contest.

"I didn't know he had a spinner," Woodruff said. Ljubicic said that he had not used the spinner in any of the earlier rounds because he was saving it as a last resort.

Woodruff's robot, which was faster and more mobile than most, consisted of two smaller robots. One of the robots was specialized in spinning the paddle wheel, and did so quite successfully until the last round. The other robot pushed balls into the hole.

Woodruff said that he stayed up on Wednesday night trying to figure out how to beat Ljubicic. "He was the one person I feared," Woodruff said.

Contest more complicated

Professor Ernesto E. Blanco, an instructor in the course, said that the contest was more complicated than past years' contests. "I wonder if we made it too complicated and too difficult," he said.

Slocum said that the students

were a little more on schedule this year. The instructors did "a better job coaching and keeping them to a schedule," he said.

The course also differed this year in that students built a simple car for three weeks early in the semester as an introduction, Slocum said. Between a quarter and a half of the students incorporated their early cars into their final machines, he said.

The "robots generally came out less well-made this year, but they came out sooner," said Peter K. Augenbergs '05, an undergraduate assistant for this year's contest who participated last year.

"People were driving around a lot sooner than last year," said Jeremy H. Scholz '05, also an assistant who participated last year.

Many hours spent on robots

Both Ljubicic and Woodruff said that they spent a lot of time building their machines.

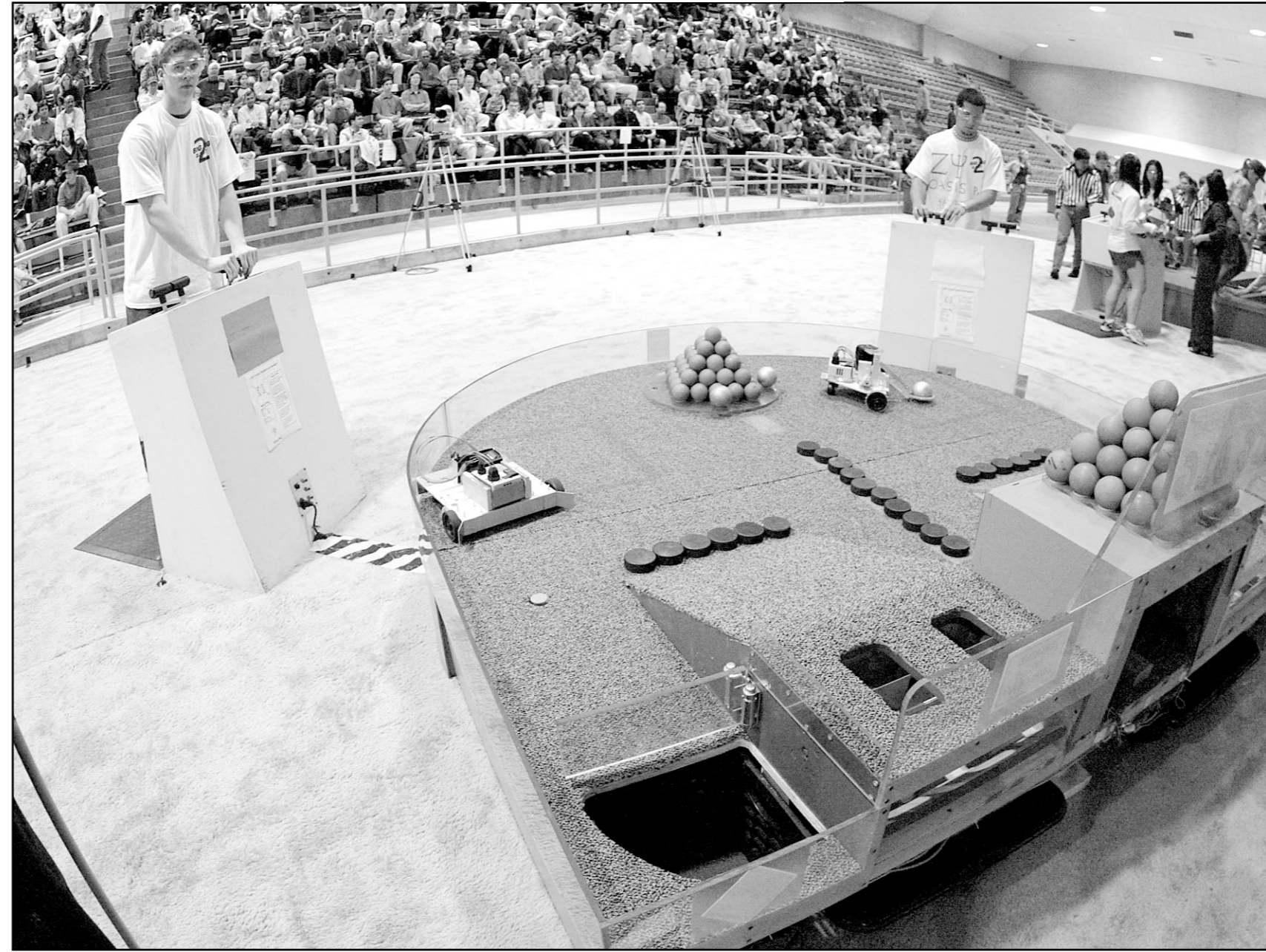
Ljubicic said that he spent about twelve hours a week on his machine.

Woodruff said that he worked on his machine every day over spring break and 16 hours a week during the semester.

Woodruff's advice for anyone taking 2.007 in future years? "Don't leave a 2.005 project until the night after 2.007."



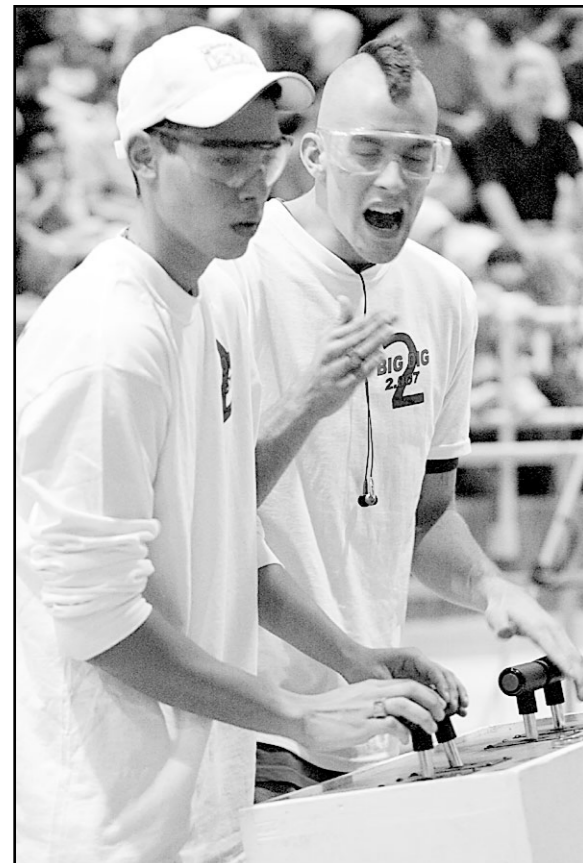
ANDREW YIP—THE TECH



ANDREW YIP—THE TECH



ANDREW YIP—THE TECH



ANDREW YIP—THE TECH



ANDREW YIP—THE TECH

(center of page) Philip E. Murray '06 (left) and Marc D. Strauss '05 (right) face off in the first round of the 2.007 finals. Strauss was victorious and moved on to the next round.

(clockwise from upper left) Mechanical Engineering Professor Alexander H. Slocum '82 gives the audience an earful of sophomore Neera Jain's FemmeBot as it uses its a high speed rotor to spin the scoring paddlewheel.

Diana Lui '06 and her assistant Somin Lee '06 work the controls.

Bryan Woodruff '06 (left) takes the controls from his assistant Celeste K. Chudyk during the third round of competition.

Competition staffer Christina M. Laskowski '05 (left) explains the contest rules to a group of kids.

Woodruff and Chudyk place their robot on the table in preparation for the final round of competition. Woodruff placed second overall.

Professor Slocum hoists winner Dean M. Ljubicic '06 for Slocum's trademark 2.007 victor-haul. This year's competition ended with a highly dramatic final round, complete with a come-from-behind victory.

Behind the scenes, AV specialists film the competition with remote-controlled cameras.

Josiah B. Rosmarin '06 (right) reacts to a momentary setback while assisting Marcos G. Berrios '06.

Professor Slocum entertains the audience with a joke between rounds of competition.



BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

FEATURES

It May Not Be Right, But is it Even Wrong?

School Spirit, Our Spirit, Rocky and Bring It On

By Dan Scolnic

FEATURES COLUMNIST

MIT has cheerleaders, but who are they leading? MIT has sports teams, but who's watching them? The Coop has MIT sweat-shirts, but who's wearing them? MIT is one of the best schools in the world, but who's proud of it?

Not many of us.

Not many of us go to nearly as many sports games at college as we did in high school. Not many of us even go to one game here at MIT. My high school basketball team was terrible; we didn't have a guy taller than six feet, but there were still five times as many people at every game than at any MIT game.

We say that MIT sports stink; but that's not the case. Our men's soccer team went to the the division III elite eight this year and our men's water polo won their tournament. We say that there were more people in high

school, but we know that's not the case. It just doesn't make sense. So what's the problem?

The easy answer is that we're too busy. There are around forty sports teams, which means we're pretty spread out. But more importantly, we don't have time to watch squash when we have a test that's about to squash us. But at other great schools, like Princeton, Duke or Yale, they come together for some of their teams, and they are very busy, too. For them, a sports game is an event and they treat it like we treat an Advisor's meeting.

So the problem is deeper.

The problem is we don't care. The most repeated expression here is "IHTFP," so why go to one of this FP's sports games? Knocking MIT is the culture here, and we aren't going to support something we knock. We may complain and whine, but we're not hypocrites.

The culture just feeds on itself. People go to sports games only to see that no one goes and then never come back. Naïve kids who have a chance of liking the place and maybe even going to a football game are soon taught otherwise. We talk about MIT with this feeling that borders on vengeance. They took something from so we're not going to give them anything. We have the logic of five year olds. But still, they break us. We feel MIT stole a certain happiness from us, they took something we cherished in ourselves and we're scared its gone forever.

But it hasn't left us. That's even one of the painful parts; we can still feel these wishes for happiness. But we give up; we de-prioritize our happiness too quickly. Why do we say we hate this place? We hate it because we hate what it's doing to us.

IHTF place is really our projection of IHTF person. And we just stop cheering. We stop going to our own sports games. We stop

rooting for ourselves. It is not just our school spirit that dies but our own spirit. Our school spirit depends on our own spirit. If we could still cheer ourselves on, we could cheer this school on. If we could be proud of who we are then we could be proud of where we are.

So let's remember we who we are and where we are. We are these kids going up against this monster. We are Rocky going up against MIT's Drago. MIT is a Soviet Union backed, P-set giving, steroid-using machine.

But let's remember that we're in the ring. And we can win. But the most important thing is that we fight. We fight for our place in the ring. We fight for our happiness. And if we can fight for ourselves, if we can fight against what this school is doing to us then we can change this school into something worth fighting for.

What I'm trying to say is if I can change, and you can change, then we all can change.

Or better: its been brought.

Positive Sinking

It All Works Out In Base Thirteen

By Akshay Patil

FEATURES EDITOR

Howdy, here's a random question to ponder (this is my typical "ice-breaker" question I always use when I'm meeting new people):

If you had to drown in anything other than water, what would it be, and why?

I've heard all sorts of answers from the ordinary (beer, chocolate, etc.) to the uber-geeky (liquid oxygen, heavy water, phosphate-buffered saline, etc.) to the downright bizarre (liquified corn dogs, E-Z Cheese with bacon flavoring, etc.), so I'm interested to hear what the Positive Sinking guru can come up with.

— Vanessa

Water. Oh crap, that's not allowed. Uhm, well I'm really not keen on the whole dying thing, so how about cryogenic-super-cold-liquid-stuff-that-doesn't-kill-you-but-preserves-you-for-future-revival? You know, like I was Ted Williams... minus the ability to hit the ball with a bat, but plus the calculus.

Assuming that's not allowed either, I'd probably have to be all uncreative like and say "chocolate." Or maybe chocolate with penguins. I'd say liquid penguin, but that's kind of gross if you think about it, which you are, since you're reading this.

Anyways, chocolate with real living penguins in it, might not be so bad. That's probably cheating though since the penguins would save me from drowning in the first place since they're nice and, while I'm picking, I'd probably be dressed up in my giant penguin suit... errr, I mean "a" giant penguin suit. Heheh, wouldn't want to imply that I have a giant water-proof penguin suit in my closet which I save for special occasions. Because I don't. And that's all I have to say about that.

You are a witty and quotable guy. Why don't you have a Technique quote?

— Jon

Me? Quotable? You must have me confused with somebody else. As my regular reader (hi mom!) will attest, most of what I say is absolute gibberish. Heaven forbid anyone should actually quote me, it'd be like translating a high school literature paper into pig latin — not only is it horribly obfuscated and weird, but underneath it all nobody's saying anything in the first place. That or it's full of teenage stang-ay.

I actually did turn in a *Technique* quotation, which I can only imagine was either lost or thrown out as stupid. Nothing creative though, since everything I do is probably stolen from someone else, whether I realize it or not.

Anyways, the quotation I wanted by my photo was "mostly harmless," which is a phrase that anyone could, and everyone probably does, string together should they put their mind to it. I like to attribute it to good ol' Dougie Adams though, since he's the one who got famous for saying it.

Maybe the good folks at *Technique* took it out because they felt it was false advertising on my part — my friends make me sit in the corner at parties because I tend to scare away the cute girls with my inane babbling and giant penguin suit. I like to think I'm not much of a bother though and have yet to receive a restraining order (they did, however, kick me out of the zoo — said I was scaring the children).

Perhaps "mostly harmless" isn't as kick ass as, you know, 'N*SYNC lyrics, but it felt like the proper footprint to leave in our spiffy red yearbook, four year after being handed a red (maroon? cardinal? What is our school color anyways?) Hitchhiker's guide to Institutve orientation.

Dear Sinking to Wear Pants To,

Make something about Beanie Babies eating EG-6 fusion droids in under thirty seconds. It should be soca but definitely not ska. Try and do a Bahamian accent.

— Egg Conveying an Emoticon

I have no idea what you're talking about, but I like your name. More importantly, your e-mail pushes me over my self-imposed minimum word count. Woot.

Term's almost over, better unload all those weird thoughts you have into an e-mail to sinking@mit.edu where they can be recycled into an environmentally-safe alternative. Like newspaper. Which is probably more detrimental to the environment than your weird thought... unless your weird thought involves toxic components such as walruses, dresses, or all natural flavoring.

How To Eat Like an Asian

Asian Childhood Snacks

By Mark Liao

FEATURES COLUMNIST

As a kid, we all had some fantasies that in retrospect were just plain weird. Some of us longed to be covered in green ooze and become giant mutant turtles. Others wanted to have a bullet-proof, talking car you could communicate with via your watch.

I was no different; my crazy childhood dream was to be locked overnight in a supermarket. Just imagine how many prepubescent food fantasies you could fulfill. I would never run out of Magic Shell for my Haagen Daz ice cream and I could actually have an entire bowl of Lucky Charms with only marshmallows.

But here's where you and I probably differ in how we would take advantage of our one night of good fortune. As little kids, when you were downing Fruit Rollups and Shark Bites, I was raised on dried squid jerky and pickled plums. Let's face it; our priorities would be a bit different don't you think?

So today, I am going to try to resolve this little issue. Submitted for the approval of the midnight society, I call this article, (queue weird powder that makes the campfire roar) Asian childhood snacks.

As in any culture, snacks can be divided up into roughly two categories: salty and sweet. Let's start with the sweets.

One of the best parts of the Asian supermarket snack aisle is the candy packaged in chains of little packets, each with a different flavor. They usually hang on the ends of the aisle and contain an assortment ranging from chocolate covered fruit flavored gummies to Japanese super sour hard candies that make you cry.

Perhaps my favorite of all such packaged snacks is the round little crackers about the size of large chocolate chips. Reading the English translation, these little guys are made of potato starch but they are, oddly enough, sweet. I really couldn't care less (grammar people across campus are screaming right... now) because they are amazing. They're usually a light beige color with an artificial crown of brown so you think they were individually baked. If you hold them in your mouth for a little, they kind of just melt. On my recent trip back to Taiwan, my grandmother kept making fun of me because she considers these snacks baby food; babies can't choke on them.

Another popular snack is Pocky. The familiar red box contains roughly twenty or so chocolate covered cookie sticks. This snack of Japanese origin is pack-

aged by Glico and has gained so much popularity they've even got David Beckham endorsing it. Of course there are now a hundred and one different flavors out there ranging from marble tea chocolate flavor marketed at men, to white chocolate with almonds flavor marketed as the "sophisticated" Pocky. Bottom line, there's a type of Pocky for everyone.

Now some of you might remember Koala Yummies, tiny koala shaped cookies filled with chocolate, strawberry or vanilla. You can still find Koala Yummies at most of your local Asian supermarkets, sometimes even in jumbo sizes. Sadly, they no longer come in a giant octagonal prism full of hundreds of tasty Koalas... now they come in bunches of individually wrapped packets each with about fifteen or so cookies. Be careful not to buy the cheapo imitation brand with the scary looking panda on the box.

Shifting gears into the saltier types of snacks, I know there are things out there that most white guys would be squeamish about. I remember seeing a page in Maxim on tiny roasted whole crabs, then seeing them next to the squid jerky on a trip to Super 88. So I'm just going to lay it out there for you guys and you get to decide whether or not to go for it.

Almost every culture around the world has some form of jerky. Since beef was, and sometimes still is, a luxury in Asia, we had to find alternative meats to salt, dry, and preserve. I can honestly say that nothing will beat a nice piece of Taiwanese pork jerky. It has the same great flavor of a Chinese sweet sausage and is much more tender than any American jerky I've ever had. The only thing that may make you hesitate is the fact that it's sometimes a bit greasy in its packaging.

As for your preserved seafoods, I highly recommend the squid jerky. Now I know it sounds odd, but we've already established that squid is good in any form. Just remember, calamari is good even if it's not fried. Squid jerky usually comes in two types: the stringy shoelace type that is prepackaged, and the long flat pieces that are sometimes stored in rolls. Both have their appeal. The stringy ones are chewier while the flat pieces are much softer. Hey, just be grateful I'm not trying to convince you to eat dried anchovies or those little cubes of dried fish wrapped in brightly colored foil that could be easily mistaken for candy.

Sticking to the theme of seafood, a good alternative to your Ruffles or Pringles would be shrimp chips. I really can't tell you why they're called shrimp

Come and play Quark
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Community Has Mixed Feelings About Stata Center

Stata, from Page 1

ballooned to \$283.5 million dollars.

MIT asked for 'generic' design

Christopher J. Terman, a senior lecturer in electrical engineering and computer science, found himself in the position of liaison between MIT and the architects constructing the building. As one of the representatives of the new building's clients, Terman ended up as one of MIT's main contacts with Gehry. Part of his job, he said, was to translate from an architect's "weird language" to language that engineers could understand.

Gehry's approach to the problem of designing Stata was to determine the necessary qualities of the space, not to solve particular design problems, Terman said. The building's design process was "not a case of the customer being right," he said, but rather a case of the "customer needing to broaden their horizons."

MIT asked that the design of the building be generic instead of "shrink wrapping the space" around the particular needs of current faculty. "It's going to take a while to figure out how to make these spaces work for us," he said.

In his dialogue with the Stata Center's future occupants, Gehry pushed for more radical designs. When he first met with MIT representatives, Gehry said that he correctly predicted that they would ask to replicate their former offices in the new space without realizing that was what they were asking for. The design process asked "how do we get away from this," he said.

Initial designs (including one based on a traditional Japanese house) were rejected because faculty "wanted flexibility but didn't

want to be subject to that kind of invasion of privacy." Other designs that didn't make the cut were based around the idea of how orangutangs live and a colonial mansion.

The Stata Center will be a success, Gehry said, if he was able to "interpret what [the occupants] were talking about in a way they never expected." The building, if it is a success, should come as a surprise to occupants and "engender a kind of pride."

Gehry's desire to push the envelope of comfort may be responsible for unhappiness among current residents, but the building's planners are optimistic. All of the problems "are very solvable," Terman said. Mitchell said that he expected discomfort following a "culture change." "The building is an experiment," he said. "I suspect that people will discover that they like more openness," he said.

While Gehry was not aware of the complaints of new occupants, he suggested that the building could be adapted to address them. "You can do it, but you lose something," he said; changing the building would "give up a sense of community." Gehry also suggested that residents may adapt to their new surroundings. If those that don't like the new space can't accommodate themselves, then the building is a failure, he said.

Students complaints many, varied

An unscientific poll of students and staff subscribed to a CSAIL-wide mailing list (csail-discuss@csail.mit.edu) has revealed a litany of complaints about the new building, many of which fly directly in the face of the design goals.

Encouraging collaboration was a major goal in designing the Stata Center. Mitchell said that the series

of building projects that includes the Stata Center was intended "not just to meet space needs," but to "rethink the idea of a campus." Stata was built to encourage a "learning community," he said. The planners "recognize that in the end research is about discussion ... [and] encounters in the corridor."

This goal is reflected in the building's numerous open spaces, many of which serve as office space for graduate students. Gehry said that he followed "a simple formula" to draw students out of offices and encourage collaboration: add "a few funny colors and bring in some natural light." "If the building seems weird and strange ... it is related to" the design goal of encouraging collaboration, he said.

Many say open spaces lack privacy

The lab's many open spaces have led, among some, more to a feeling of lost privacy than a noticeable gain in collaboration. Leigh Deacon, a laboratory administrative assistant, wrote that her location in one of the Stata Center's open spaces was inferior to her office at LCS's previous location in Technology Square. "My office at Tech Square might have been a bit of a hole... but I loved it. It was my hole. I could close the door," she wrote. Another assistant also commented on the loss of privacy that results from working in such spaces: "I feel like I lost something very important — a sense of my own space — and a feeling of importance."

Many graduate students working in open spaces, intended to increase collaboration, have voiced concerns about privacy and distractions. Students reacted to open spaces that shared glass walls with hallways by painting, blocking, or papering the

glass.

Nicholas E. Matsakis G compared working at his desk in Stata to working in Project Athena's "fishbowl" cluster that opened onto the Infinite Corridor. Working in the fishbowl was less of a problem, Matsakis said, because the fishbowl was clearly public space with no expectations of privacy or ownership, unlike an office.

Others are pleased with the new building. Graduate student Nicole S. Immorlica's impression of the new building is "infinitely better" than Tech Square. "Just walking into Stata makes you smile." Deacon said that being on campus is advantageous.

The Stata Center's price tag has also raised eyebrows. Terman said that the building's budget was a "series of half-yearly crises." Each time the budget had to be reevaluated, the designers had "worked hard to get [the building] the way you want and now you need 30 percent less of it," he said. Gehry said that in designing the building, he responded primarily to client requests, but also to "stupid things like budgets." Gehry said that the building's final design was as far from a "brick box" as the budget allowed.

Stata's unique design also posed a series of challenges to those constructing it, Terman said. Several contractors went out of business before the work they were hired to do was completed. Mistakes also caused delays; for example, problems with the poured concrete walls of an elevator shaft necessitated jackhammering away a corner of the shaft and re-pouring it, he said.

RFID security leads to debate

The Stata Center is equipped

with several layers of physical security: reaching an office requires passing through several doors that open only via MIT ID cards equipped with radio frequency identification tags. The added security measures, unprecedented on MIT's open campus, spawned a lengthy debate. Research Affiliate and well-known privacy advocate Richard M. Stallman said that the system of locked doors "embodies the threat of pervasive computing: pervasive surveillance, such as no tyrant had the ability to impose in the past."

Mitchell said that the Stata Center will be open to the public but that it will be necessary to find a compromise between security and accessibility. Electronic security provides the "flexibility to achieve security and openness," he said. Debates about how to improve both security and privacy are to be welcomed and are in the spirit of MIT, he said.

Despite added security, unwanted visitors appear to be a problem. Gehry said that a sign of a building's success is that "the world comes to peek at it." Administrative Assistant Mary M. McDavitt said that she feels like "the 'unofficial' information desk" on the seventh floor of the Gates tower. Answering questions from visitors makes concentrating difficult, she said.

The divergence of opinion that Stata invokes may be partially explained by the fact that there are so many different types of offices in the new building, some of which are better than others. As Gardiol commented: "NE-43 was wretched; but, at least everyone was in the same boat. In Building 32, some folks got the plums, and others got the smashed plums."

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<http://web.mit.edu/mitgoscho>

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Solution to Crossword
from page 9

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Old LaVerde's Transactions Now Appearing on Credit Card Bills

A rash of unauthorized charges to credit cards from LaVerde's Market are the result of transactions that were not processed until recently, according to a notice to customers posted around the store.

In the notice, LaVerde's said that "About 6 months ago, we discovered that our Visa/Master card processor, (Global Payments), had not processed a number of credit card transactions in late 2002 and early 2003; about 20 random days."

"Global Payments our credit card processor, gave us the authorization to key-enter the un-paid transactions and we are in the process of doing so," the notice states.

The notice also states that LaVerde's has "the original transmission tapes" and signed copies of customer receipts from the 2002 and 2003 transactions.

— Marissa Vogt

GSC Elects Treasurer

The four newly-elected Graduate Student Council officers ran their first meeting on Wednesday at the May monthly GSC General Council meeting.

Virgilio M. Villacorta G was elected treasurer on April 21 at a special GSC session, because he was unable to attend the April General Council meeting, during which elections took place. Villacorta was the only candidate for GSC treasurer, though other graduate students could have become candidates after the April meeting, said Michael R. Folkert, the former GSC vice president.

Barun Singh G, the new GSC president, Hector H. Hernandez G, the new GSC vice president, and Lucy Wong, the new GSC secretary, were all elected at April's general council meeting.

— Kathy Dobson

Acid Releases Dangerous Gas At 300 Tech Square

The Cambridge Fire Department and its hazardous materials team responded to a call on Wednesday, outside 300 Technology Square.

"There was an acid that was dumped into one of the dumpsters on the side of the building," said Fire Department Deputy Chief James Burns.

"The bottle broke and some gas was released," Burns said.

The person who threw the bottle into the dumpster called the fire department, he said.

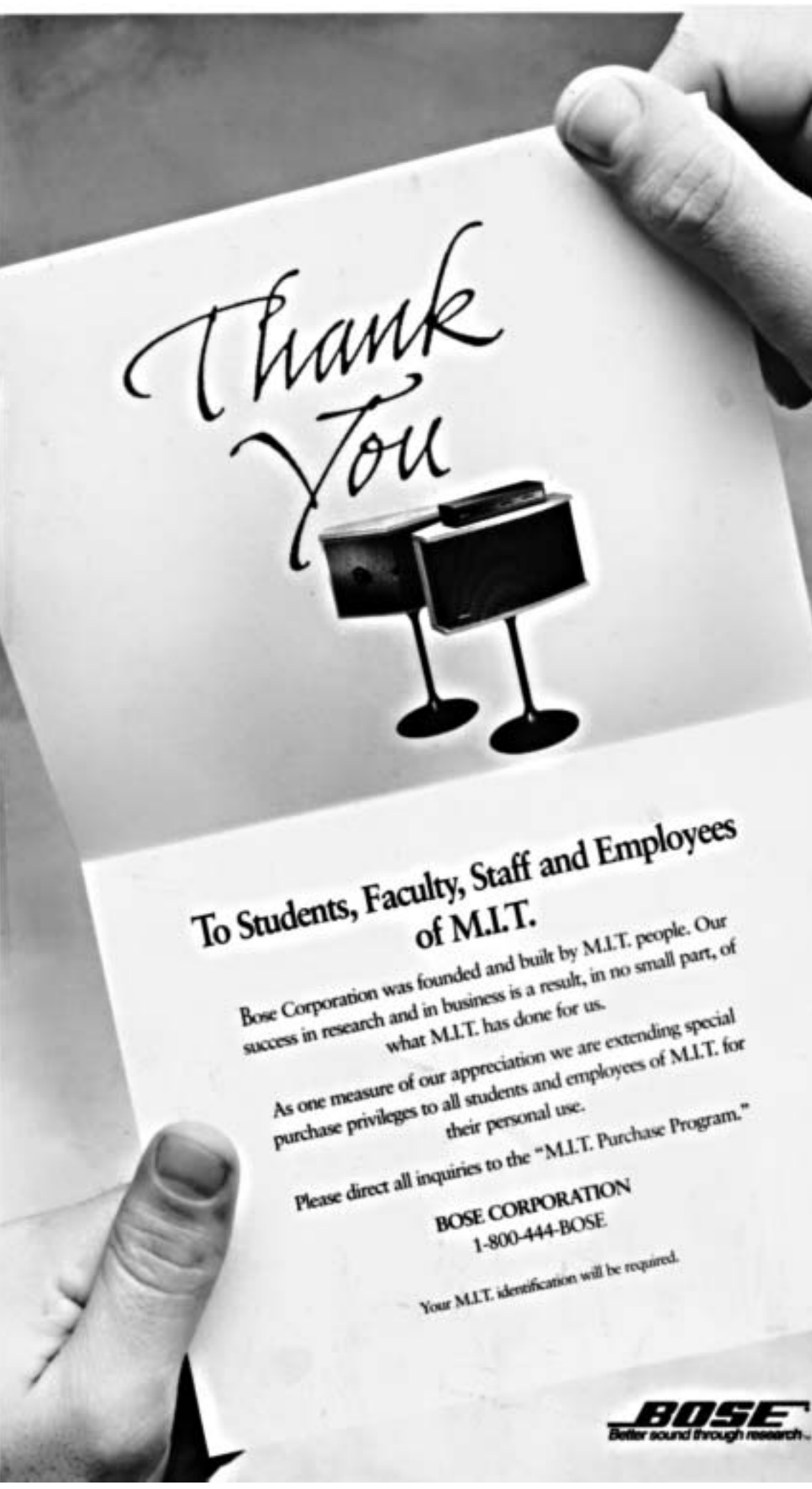
Burns said they responded with level A hazard suits and applied "soda ash" to neutralize the ashes, and that no one was harmed in the incident.

Improper disposal of chemicals does not occur too often, but it is also not uncommon, he said.

—Beckett W. Sterner



FRANK DABER—THE TECH



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(if you stare long enough, it turns into a wild turkey)

SAE To Rush With IFC in Fall

SAE, from Page 1

dean of discipline, and Daniel Trujillo, associate dean for community development and substance abuse programs.

Before Orientation 2005, SAE must meet with the IFC recruitment chair to "outline our expectations of them during the recruitment period" said Daneshvar.

Wilmer F. Fiorentino '05, spokesman for the expansion committee, said, "We're pretty much going to give them some more time to get to know the IFC, to get to know the individual chapters, to get more acquainted with the IFC and the MIT administration in general."

If SAE can adhere to the IFC rules and "they can pretty much go through rush without any incident, then it would clear up any questions that we have," said Fiorentino.

Committee interviews members

The expansion committee interviewed four of the nine SAE members, William Noz '57 President of the SAE Alumni Corporation, the

Province Archon, a national official from SAE international fraternity, and several people within the MIT administration, including David N. Rogers, assistant dean and director of FSILGs, "because he's been working closely with them," said Fiorentino.

"The conclusion that we came to ... was that they seem to be in good shape so far but we kind of don't want to rush them," Fiorentino said.

Becoming associate members of the IFC would be the first step to full institute recognition of the fraternity. "Any group needs to come through us to get recognition. Once a group is recognized by the IFC it can get ASA and MIT recognition," said Daneshvar.

A vote by half of the President's Council would make SAE associate members of the IFC. After one year, another vote of the council would give SAE probationary membership. Then after another six months, the council would vote whether or not to make SAE full members of the IFC.

"Associate members are able to rush with the IFC," said Daneshvar,

"the only privileges that they don't have are voting privileges." In addition, Daneshvar added that "they also have to submit reports to us on a regular basis as associate probationary members." As of right now SAE doesn't rush with the fraternity system because they are not members of the IFC.

SAE plans to rush in fall

"The fact that we can rush next year is a big thing for us ... we're really excited about next year. We've been working really hard," said Adam P. Leeb '07, SAE assistant rush chair.

Carlucci said that SAE had already been "recognized as a colony and pledged in October," but would be initiated as brothers tomorrow. A colony is a precursor to a fraternity.

He said that they were working on plans to live with Beta Theta Pi. We would "rent the top two floors of their annex," he said.

He calls the IFC permission to rush fully gets them "a step closer" to returning SAE as a member of the MIT community.

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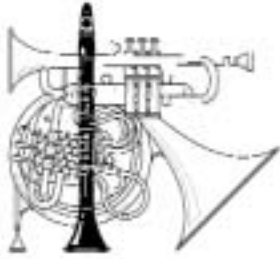
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Track Third in Championship, Small Squad Hurts Bid for Title

By Benjamin A. Schmeckpeper
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Men's Track team took a squad of just 17 athletes to Williams College to defend its title from last year at the New England Division III Championships this weekend. Competing with small numbers all season, the team looked to continue its strong performance from the NEW-MAC championship the previous weekend. At the start of the meet, Williams was the clear front runner, with Bates College, MIT, Tufts University, and Springfield College expected to battle for the second and third place trophies.

Competing in the decathlon on Thursday and Friday, Thaddeus J. Wozniak '06 secured a third place finish with a score of 5,595 points. Wozniak saved his best performances for his last meet of the season, setting career best marks in five of the ten events.

National champion Uzoma A. Orji '06 competed in all three throwing events for the Engineers; however, he was unable to find his rhythm, placing fifth in the hammer and ninth in the discus before heaving the shotput 55' 1" to win by nearly three feet. Nestor F. Hernandez '05 and Nathan B. Ball '05 had

little difficulty finding their rhythms in the pole vault. Getting the most out of the tailwind, Hernandez cleared 14' 1" before having to withdraw because of an injured hamstring. Ball continued vaulting, narrowly missing his last attempt at 16'. Having cleared 15' 6 1/4" earlier, Ball placed second overall; Hernandez's efforts were good for a seventh place finish.

On the track, the 4x100m relay team of Zachary J. Traina '05, Marcus R. Carson '07, Jonathan C. Hsieh '06 and David A. Blau '06 got things off on the right foot, covering 400 meters in a season's best 43.13 seconds. Immediately following the relay, MIT sent four steeplechasers to the track and Benjamin A. Schmeckpeper '05, Krzysztof J. Fidkowski G, and Carlos A. Renjifo '04 ran to third, fourth, and seventh place finishes, respectively.

Competing in what could have been his final collegiate meet, Fidkowski ran 9:42.02, fast enough to qualify for the All New England Championship and extend his season by a week. After the conclusion of the steeplechase, John A. Brewer '05 ran the 1500 meter in a season's best time of 4:02.89 to win his heat. All Brewer could do was watch the following heat and hope his time would place him amongst the eight fastest runners. Unfortunately,

Brewer's time came up just short, placing him ninth by just 0.16 seconds.

Traina returned to the track to compete in the finals of both the 100 and 200 meter dashes, looking to continue the string of near-perfect races he had run this season. In the 100 meter final, Traina was barely outleaded at the finish line, giving him a fourth place finish. Traina's specialty is the half-lapper, however, and he had the support of the entire team as he raced down the homestretch to a second place finish in 21.87 seconds, a scant 0.13 seconds behind first place.

Ultimately, MIT was unable to defend the title it won last year, as Williams lived up to expectations and finished with a dominant 142.5 points. MIT claimed third place and the final trophy, finishing a mere two points, 68-70, behind runners-up Bates College. Although the Engineers did not put together a perfect meet, for such a small squad to finish third in a large championship is quite an accomplishment.

The third place finish and NEW-MAC Championship go a long way to erase the team's memory of their 2-5 record during the regular season. With the exception of Fidkowski, the entire team returns next year and will look to reclaim the New England Division III title.

The Best of Baseball And the Jano Awards

Sox, from Page 20

run, and 13 strike outs. Included in that stretch was a string of seven perfect innings in one rain-logged game against the Tigers. In that game, Jeff "Unleaded" D'Amico started the game, gave up four runs, and recorded no outs. Then, the rains came and washed him out of the game. When the game resumed, Westbrook was brought in to pitch, and the rest is history. Because of his stellar pitching and AL Pitcher of the Week honor, Westbrook has finally earned a spot in the Indians' rotation. Congrats, Jake.

Not only is the pitching stellar, but the hitting is coming together. Offseason acquisition Ronnie "Ring My" Belliard has set the table for the Tribe's offense all year. Belliard has shown once again that he is a solid hitter with his .385 average. Up and down the line-up, everyone can hit, and hitting coach Eddie "Axel Foley" Murray has shown them how. Look for the Tribe to continue producing runs but blowing leads in late innings.

Jano Awards:

Hitting: Michael "Neil" Young of the Texas Rangers. Judged by many to be a "sleeper" this year (damn you, dad), Young has exploded in the heat of Texas. So far this season, Young has 26 runs, 4 home runs, 20 runs batted in, 3 stolen bases, and a .356 hitting average. Having been moved to shortstop by the acquisition of Soriano, Young can now play two positions for your fantasy team. Young hits before Blalock, so pitchers who originally feared Blalock decided to pitch to Young, trying to get the easier out. Now that Young is producing, Blalock is seeing more pitches to hit and is producing as well. Only a work stoppage can stop this radical chain reaction in Texas.

Honorable Mention: Ronnie Belliard of the Cleveland Indians. See above section.

Pitching: Jake Westbrook of the Cleveland Indians. See above section.

Honorable Mention: Jake "The Snake" Peavy of the San Diego Padres. Following his promising trend from last season, Peavy is ripping up the competition. So far, Peavy has racked up 2 wins, 31 Ks, and a 1.80 earned run average. The only problem with Peavy's starts is that the bullpen tends to blow them. Three of Peavy's leads have been erased by errant bullpen pitching. The thing I like most about Peavy is

the way he handled one of the no decisions. He said to the press after one of the games that the wins would have been nice but that no blame should be given to the bullpen. That's how the game is played. Kudos to you, Jake.

Utility: Mike "And the Mechanics" Matheny of the St. Louis Cardinals. On Tuesday, it was Matheny who saved the game for the Cardinals and not Izzy. Here's the stage: Cards up 6-5, bottom 9, 2-2 count, bases loaded, Izzy on the mound, and Burrell at the plate. Izzy throws some high cheese and gets Burrell to chase it. Strike three was called, but the ball got away from Matheny. The runners immediately took off in an effort to tie the game, but Matheny raced to the back wall and fired it to Pujols at first, who himself made an excellent stretch to nail the out. Game over. Cardinals win. It takes a smart catcher to act that quickly on his feet to save the game for his team.

Honorable Mention: Brian "Speedy" Roberts of the Baltimore Orioles. This kid can fly. On Tuesday alone, he stole four bases and scored four times for the O's. He has been the spark plug for the Orioles' offense and is impossible to double-up. This season alone, Roberts has 24 runs, 1 HR, 8 RBIs, 13 SBs, and a .327 average. He and another Roberts will run away with the stolen base titles this season.

Trojan-Enz Boner of the Week: David Riske "Business" of the Cleveland Indians. Sigh. You have lost the job you won last season and have had only one good outing all year. Maybe your new son is the bad luck charm you joked about?

Honorable Mention: Jimmy "Dinner" Rollins of the Philadelphia Phillies. Much like the rest of Philadelphia's sports teams, you have done terribly this season. Sporting a Mendoza-esque .188 average with only 7 runs, 4 RBIs, and 2 SBs, you embody all that is wrong with the Phillies: inconsistency. Luckily for Pat Burrell, his slump has been passed along to you.

Hot Fantasy Pick-ups:

Robby Hammock, Jake Westbrook, Cliff Lee, Matt Holliday, Rafael Betancourt, Gerald Laird, Chone Figgins, Chad Tracy

Cold Fantasy Dumps:

Jimmy Rollins, David Riske, Mike Mussina, Alex Cintron, the Toronto Blue Jays, Mike Lieberthal, Jason Phillips, Derek Jeter, Henry Blanco

Rugby Scrums Well, Wins the Match

By Jenny Hu
TEAM MEMBER

The Women's Rugby team defeated Tufts University 30-5 last Saturday morning to finish the spring season 6-0.

MIT dominated the game from the beginning, with players making runs up the field between good scrums by forwards and fast, clean rucks. (A scrum is a fight for possession of the ball after a stoppage in play, and a ruck is a spontaneous scrum.) In previous games, the team has had trouble winning rucks, partly because of their relatively small size compared to other teams. This time players consistently came in low and hit hard, pushed back the other team to establish their position over the ball, and allowed scrumhalf Rebecca Asser G to take the ball out easily.

Eight-man Margret I. Nelson '07 and flanker Amy F. Perfors G both had several impressive runs, fighting off defenders or dragging them behind as they carried the ball up the field. The entire team showed improvement in placing the ball down neatly after being tackled, often allowing their support to pick

up the ball immediately and keep moving forward. Lineouts, or throw-ins, have been difficult for the team throughout the season.

Last Saturday was less windy than previous Saturdays, which helped thrower Olivia Leitermann '05 put straight throws into the lineouts for jumpers Michele C. Verticchio G and Perfors to catch.

MIT's defense was solid throughout the game. Players were aggressive, coming up to meet the other team, and tackling low and hard. Twice, Tufts reached their try zone only to have the ball held up. MIT's back line, led by flyhalf Synthia L. Tonn '06, ran the ball through Tufts' defense to gain yards and score. Sheila A. Longo '05 assisted in the game's first try by carrying the ball up the middle of the field and evading several opponents before passing the ball off to Christiana O. Obiaya '04, who ran the last few yards into the try zone and touched the ball down. Longo later scored her own try, as did Maria E. Stiteler '04 and wings Lucy E. Rodd G and Danielle M. Gilbert '04. Although MIT did not complete any conversion kicks after scoring, Gilbert and fullback Mary P. Harding '07 made several long

kicks down the field during play to advance the ball.

The MIT Women's Rugby team has come a long way in the past couple years. During the 2002-2003 season, the team did not win a single game. Even last year, the team often had difficulty fielding a full side of 15 players. This year, with the addition of many talented rookies and the guidance of coaches Alison Elliott and Trey Dean, the team has completely turned around. At the beginning of last fall's season, only three members of the forward pack had played rugby before. Undiscouraged, the team practiced hard to improve individual skills and learn how to play together. Progress was visible in the team's record. They lost the first two official games of the fall season but then won the next three. UMass Lowell was defeated 48-5, and Hartford College was beaten 45-0. The win against Tufts puts the MIT team on a nine-game winning streak.

MIT plays in the New England Rugby Football Union's Division III. Three of the recently defeated teams, including Tufts, belong to Division II. With a strong record behind them, MIT is looking forward to more victories next fall.



JENNY HU

The women's rugby team fights for the ball against Tufts University on Briggs Field, Saturday, May 1. MIT won the game 30-6, and finished the spring season with a record of 6-0.

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SPORTS

Rangers and Indians Halt Sox Win Streak

By Phil Janowicz
SPORTS EDITOR

What is up with the Sox? They steal six of seven from the Yankees just to lose to the Rangers and Indians? Maybe the real issue here isn't the losing of the Sox but the winning of the Rangers and Tribe.

Something the Rangers have always lacked is quality pitching. They tried grabbing hot commodities like Chan Ho "Bag" Park and focusing on home-grown talent. This year, GM John Hart "Attack" has given the Rangers their long-awaited arms. Kenny "Bad Chicken!" Rogers is back with more fervor. Relative newbies Ryan Drese "Lightning" and Joaquin "Phoenix"

Benoit outpitched the top Beantown hurlers. Closer Francisco "49er" Cordero has racked up the saves and has shot down opponents with his fastball. With their offense running on all cylinders of this pick-up, Texas should have a good reason to smile for years to come.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: the Indians are a good team. Stop laughing because they are good, and here's why: pitching. With one of the lowest starter ERAs in the majors, the Tribe has the ability to get into every game they play because the starters are holding opponents to three runs a game. Jake "Jerry" Westbrook had a string of 22 innings during which he only gave up 2 runs, 8 hits, 5 walks, 1 home

Sox, Page 19

NHL Lightning, Flames Predicted in Cup Final

By Andrew C. Thomas
OPINION COLUMNIST

These picks are dedicated to every hockey mother who insisted her son or daughter wear facial protection

when they made it big. Facial injuries have skyrocketed in the NHL, the most tragic of which is detailed in Christopher P. Anderson's '07 column about Steve Yzerman.

College hockey requires facial protection, at least with visors if not a full mask as the IM program at MIT requires. But the NHL, with faster skating, harder shots, and lighter sticks, is witnessing a staggering rise in stick and puck contact with the face. Jeremy Roenick of the Philadelphia Flyers suffered a puck to the face several months ago that gave him a concussion. The puck shattered his jaw; one can only wonder how bad the damage would have been if it had hit him higher in the face, ruining his boyish good look.

So please, if anyone in the NHL is reading this who's considering maintaining their sight for the rest of his life: if a visor is good enough for Joe Sakic or Peter Forsberg, it's good enough for you.

Tampa Bay Lightning (1) vs. Philadelphia Flyers (3)

To Hell with those Flyers and their fantastic coach, Ken Hitchcock, for sending Toronto back into playoff torpor for the second year in a row. Their goaltending is consistent, and the injuries are manageable, including those to their defensive stalwarts Kim Johnsson and Vladimir Malakhov. But the real miracle worker has been Robert "Silent Bob" Esche, who backstopped the Flyers to victory.

Still, these Lightning have been close to perfection. The only gap has been the hot-cold play of enigmatic former captain Vincent Lecavalier, who showed flashes of brilliance against Montreal but had

been inconsistent against the Islanders in the first round. Has he regained his scoring touch? It sure looks that way.

Lightning in 5.

San Jose Sharks (2) vs. Calgary Flames (6)

Darryl Sutter, Flames coach, I'm sorry I doubted you in the last round. You were the one who brought your club to life with grit and heart and carried them past the powerhouse Detroit Red Wings. The Kipper may have been great in goal, and Iggy might have inspired his team with timely physical play, but the captain's example can only go so far.

On the other side of this battle is Sutter's former employer, the San Jose Sharks, who are seeing equally good coaching out of Ron Wilson. Both teams beat juggernauts to get to this dance, so both will be riding on confidence.

This series is a tough one to pick. San Jose has proven consistently better in the long run, but slipped a bit in the last round to allow Colorado to threaten a comeback from a 3-0 disadvantage before closing it out 4-2. Calgary looks as though nothing can stop them, even a goalie as solid as Curtis Joseph was in the last round. Flames in 6.

Projected Cup final

Assuming these picks are solid, the Stanley Cup final would then take place between the Lightning and Flames starting around Memorial Day, and I have trouble imagining the Lightning having trouble with anybody at this point. Barring an injury to a leading scorer like Lecavalier or the dynamic Martin St. Louis, I'd expect the Lightning to be able to skate around the grit and take it in 5, on home ice, for their first Stanley Cup. (If you can believe it. The idea of the Cup being brought south of the Mason-Dixon wasn't good to me 2 years ago, and it ain't now.)

Yzerman Takes One for the Team

By Christopher P. Anderson

Last Saturday in Detroit, the crowd at Joe Louis Arena sat in shock as the man known across hockey as "The Captain" lay sprawled on the ice, victim of a deflected puck to the face. No one said it, but everyone watching knew it might have been the last of one of the great ones.

In a sport full of passion and controversy, few topics go uncontested like the legend of Detroit Red Wings center Steve Yzerman. In a revolving list of top-flight names (most recently Shanahan, Hasek, Hull, and Chelios), his has always stood out as the oil of the Red Machine. His team counts on him to push them to their peak, in the fashion of Larry Bird, Joe Montana, and Mario Lemieux. The importance of that leadership was apparent after Saturday's injury, as the Wings lost their punch and dropped out of the playoffs with two 1-0 losses to the Calgary Flames.

A lifelong Red Wing (21 sea-

sons), the Ottawa product was named captain at the tender age of 21. He has since ascended to the right hand of Red Wings patriarch Gordie Howe — practically a hero in perhaps the most fervent American outpost of professional hockey, the place they call Hockeytown. He has skated three Stanley Cups around the "Joe," as well as winning gold on Canada's 2002 Olympic team. Steve is so popular that last year Detroit erected a ten-story downtown mural of him, but he's the kind of guy that if it were his decision, it never would have happened.

Fitting was the sight of Yzerman handing the 2002 Stanley Cup to Wings coach Scotty Bowman — legend to legend. He epitomizes leadership and class and the qualities that go with them: toughness, confidence, high performance, and humility. In these respects, Stevie Y is all but unparalleled in sports. He's the captain all coaches wish they had, an unselfish superstar who pulls everyone up with him.

His injury is expected to heal, but whether he will have a season to

play is under discussion. With the current collective bargaining agreement about to expire, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has called for an across-the-board reduction of the arguably inflated players' salaries. Unfortunately, the only method for this proposal by the owners is a lockout, cancelling next season to force negotiation with the Players' Association. This could mean the early retirement of some of the league's best players — Yzerman, Hull, Colorado's Peter Forsberg, and Toronto's Ed Belfour, to name a few.

Yzerman quipped in 2002 that he "couldn't afford" to retire. I doubt hockey can afford it either, but at age 39, his laces aren't getting any longer. If there is a work stoppage next season and he decides to hang 'em up — if the last image of Steve is him shuffling off the ice guarding his cheekbone, his team whimpering without him — I will never forgive Bettman, Wings owner Mike Ilitch, and the rest of their gang. Nor will the city of Detroit. Nor should any hockey fan.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

The synchronized swimming team performs their team number to Vanessa Mae's rendition of Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor" during Spring Weekend. Counterclockwise from the far left: Leah C. Blasiak '04, Cilanne E. Boulet '04, Lesley D. Frame '04, Alice Wu '05, Tenley D. McHarg '04, Victoria K. Anderson G.

April Brings Many Surprises in Baseball

By Yong-yi Zhu
SPORTS COLUMNIST

April brought us some pleasant surprises and interesting turn-arounds in the world of baseball. In fact, it has even had major turn-arounds of turn-arounds.

For one, take the Red Sox and the Yankees. The Red Sox have finally stripped the Yankees of their temporary stranglehold of first place in the American League East. The Sox seemed invincible at one point, sweeping the Yankees in their own home. The Sox pitching has also given up fewer runs than any other American League team. On top of that, they were getting hits at very opportune times. Hey, as long as you score more than your opponent, it doesn't matter how many runs you score, right?

However, as of late, they can't seem to get anything going. The big four — Martinez, Schilling, Lowe, and Wakefield — have each taken a loss during the five-game skid, and their offense has been sluggish. They've given up leads early and have only managed to scrounge up a couple of runs late in the game.

Suddenly, the inferiority complex that the Boston Red Sox have had ever since Babe Ruth is surfacing again. Pedro Martinez's decision to become a free agent and leave the Sox in an unstable state isn't doing anyone in Beantown any favors, and being swept by Texas is not a great

way to spend a weekend, either.

Speaking of Texas, all they have done this year has been to produce the most wins in baseball. Some call it the "Alex Rodriguez syndrome" while others simply say that the Ranger pitching has performed up to par. For some odd reason, whenever A-Rod leaves a city, that team's record shoots up the following season. Just look at the Mariners who won 116 games after A-Rod left. But then you look at some more realistic factors and the success actually starts to make sense. Kenny Rogers and Chan Ho Park are good pitchers. Granted, they are not terribly consistent, but when they're good, they're good. In addition, we've always dreaded that Texas offense. They have so many talented young players that I think they will be a force to reckon with in the very near future. (Very near might mean this year.)

The heart of their order really can offer problems for teams. With Michael Young and Alfonso Soriano batting right, Dave Delucci and Hank Blalock batting left, and Mark Teixeira switching hitting, there's trouble no matter which pitcher is on the mound. Plus, these guys have an average age of well below 30. The possibilities for where this team could be in two years are about as cringe-inducing as thinking about the Yankee lineup now.

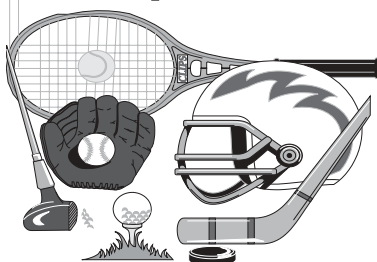
Oh yes, the Yankees. They have cured their hitting woes since they last met Boston. All the Bombers had to do was to plow through Tim

Hudson, Mark Mulder and Barry Zito. (What a cure for hitting, eh?) Maybe they just woke up from their winter sleep and realized that spring was finally here. Since that awakening, the Yankees have scored big, getting an average of 7.5 runs per game over that seven game winning streak. The return of Jon Lieber also gives them a lift where they really need one. Do they have all the pieces in place? We know for one that Derek Jeter can still find his bat, as difficult as it may have seemed.

But there are so many different story lines that have emerged from this one little month. It took the Detroit Tigers all the way until the end of May last year to win as many games as they have now. The same goes for San Diego, who might actually have a shot at winning the National League West. The NL Central is as backed up as it was a year ago, with nobody below .500. And the Florida Marlins have taken the early lead in a weak division and will try to stop Atlanta for the first time in 13 seasons.

It's been a crazy month, April. But one thing is for sure, this is only the beginning of May. The wait until October is still quite a ways away. Will Texas keep up with Anaheim in the AL West? Will Boston and New York have their private duels again? Or will Baltimore have something to say about the American League East crown? What will the crazy NL bring? All I know is that summer is here, and summer will be great.

Are you a diehard sports fan? Do you like to spend hours sitting on your bum?



If you answered yes to either question, you are pre-qualified to be a sports writer for The Tech! Come and see for yourself!