

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather

Today: Rain, 60°F (16°C)
Tonight: Rain, 55°F (13°C)
Tomorrow: Rain, 64°F (18°C)
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Volume 124, Number 45

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, October 15, 2004

BCS Building Construction is on Schedule

Media Lab Extension Plans Remain on Hold

By Kelley Rivoire
STAFF REPORTER

The new building to house the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Picower Center for Learning, and Memory and McGovern Institute for Brain Research is currently on schedule to open in the fall of 2005, said Project Manager Arne Abramson MCP '82. Unlike the construction of the Stata Center, which encountered problems with delays and additional costs, construction of the BCS building appears to be proceeding on schedule.

However, construction of the extension for the Media Laboratory, which has been on hold for several years, is still pending funding. Head of Media Arts and Sciences William J. Mitchell said he is optimistic that groundbreaking may begin within the next year.

BCS building underway

About 65 percent of the construction on the BCS building is currently done, Abramson said. The building will be 411,000 gross square feet, comparable in size to the Stata Center, he said. Faculty are scheduled to move into the new building in September 2005, with the official opening date for the building still under discussion with donors.

The construction of the BCS



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

The new Brian and Cognitive Sciences building, located on the corner of Main Street and Vassar Street, spans the railroad tracks. The construction is on schedule for a 2005 opening.

building has faced an unusual challenge: a railroad track runs through the middle of the building site, said Abramson. To accommodate this difficulty, the two buildings on either side of the track are connected at the third floor, he said.

The vibrations associated with the railroad should not affect the laboratories, Abramson said, as the foundation of the building has steel piles driven deep into bedrock, and the building was specifically

designed to minimize vibrations.

New building to unite BCS faculty

The new BCS building will accommodate all professors in Course IX, said Professor Mriganka Sur, Head of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Currently, he said, faculty are spread among buildings E18, E19, E25, and NE20.

The additional space provided by the new building will allow the

Picower Institute to hire three more faculty members, expanding its faculty from ten to thirteen, said Professor Susumu Tonegawa, head of the Picower Institute.

Faculty have had the opportunity to tour the building, and are "excited about the move," Sur said.

Tonegawa said that funding for specialized equipment in several of the experimental facilities of the Picower Center is currently a few million dollars short. However, he

MIT Plans Review Of CI-Ms In 2005

By Marissa Vogt
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement plans to launch an effort in 2005 to assess the implementation of the Communication

Analysis

Requirement, said Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine.

This year's senior class will be the first to graduate under the Communication Requirement, which was approved by the faculty in March of 2000. It requires that students entering the Institute after the summer of 2001 complete four subjects designated Communication Intensive: two in a student's major program and two in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

The implementation of the requirement involved assessing many existing subjects and designating them as CI-H or CI-M, and in some cases, developing new subjects. Subjects were offered with the CI-M designation as they were approved, though no formal assessment procedure was established.

The members of SOCR have

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New 'R and D Pub' Opens Its Doors in Stata Center

New Dining Options in Stata Draw Strong Demand

By Jeffrey Chang
STAFF REPORTER

The new "R and D Pub" opened this Tuesday on the fourth and fifth floors of the Ray and Maria Stata Center.

With three places to eat or socialize, Stata has become a new center for activity on campus. The first floor cafe in particular has seen strong demand.

R and D is open from 4:00 pm 10:00 pm on weekdays, and is available to members of the MIT community and their guests over 21. In addition to alcohol, it offers light food including fruit and cheese. Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin said plans are underway to expand the food menu.

Dining facilities used heavily

The faculty dining lounge, located on the fourth floor near the newly

opened pub, provides food from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Its dining hall contains about 110 seats and one hundred or more people pass through it each day, Berlin said.

On the first floor is the Forbes Family Cafe, which is open to the entire MIT community. There is also a Starbucks cafe area nearby, which is open from 7:30 am until 10:00 pm.

Berlin said that both the Starbucks and the dining hall have seen strong business, with the Starbucks as popular as the Bosworth's coffee shop in Lobby 7.

Viji Draviam, a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Biology, said that the area can become crowded, but she said she has not seen it filled to capacity.

"I don't see a lot of opportunities

Dining, Page 10



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Students pass through the Forbes Family Cafe at noon as others search for seating. There are rarely enough tables to comfortably seat the lunch crowd; the problem is likely to worsen as the weather cools and more people choose to eat indoors.

CAMPUS LIFE

When being an engineer just isn't enough.

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OPINION

Affirmative action does not promote low talent individuals.

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WORLD & NATION

Vaccine Helps Children Fight Malaria, Test Shows

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For the first time, researchers say, a vaccine against malaria has shown that it can save children from infection or death. The vaccine, tested on thousands of children in Mozambique, was hardly perfect: it protected them from catching the disease only about 30 percent of the time and prevented it from becoming life-threatening only about 58 percent of the time.

But because malaria kills more than a million people a year, 700,000 of them children, even partial protection would be a public health victory. The disease, caused by a parasite carried by mosquitoes, is found in 90 countries, and drug-resistant strains are spreading.

Dr. Allan Schapira, strategy coordinator for the Roll Back Malaria campaign at the World Health Organization, said the trial was "good news, and definitely of great interest for malaria control."

Dr. Melinda Moree, director of the Malaria Vaccine Initiative, said the product tried in Mozambique was now its leading candidate and had proved that the concept worked. It was made by Glaxo-SmithKline.

Sept. 11 Panel's Chief Wants Help From Bush

By Philip Shenon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, DC

The chairman of the independent Sept. 11 commission called on President Bush on Thursday to become personally involved in pressuring Congress to overhaul the nation's intelligence community, warning that the legislation recommended by the panel might die in Congress without Bush's intervention before the election next month.

"I'm very worried," said the chairman, Thomas H. Kean, a former Republican governor of New Jersey. "I think it's a 50-50 situation now. We've come a long way; we're right up to the finish line. But we have some powerful adversaries."

"I would certainly urge the president to do everything in his power to get a final bill to his desk before the election," Kean said in a telephone interview, a week after the House and Senate produced sharply different versions of a bill to enact the commission's major recommendations, including creation of the job of national intelligence director.

Counting Begins In Afghan Presidential Election

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Election workers began counting ballots on Thursday, five days after the country's first presidential election was marred by accusations of fraud and calls for a boycott by 15 candidates ranged against President Hamid Karzai.

An initial tally of 25,671 votes from five central and northern provinces gave Karzai 58 percent of the vote, followed by his main rival Muhammad Yunus Qanooni, with 17 percent of the vote, election officials said.

Reginald Austin, the chief technical adviser to a joint Afghan-U.N. elections board, cautioned that the number of votes counted represented less than 1 percent of an estimated 7 million to 8 million votes cast. He said no counting would occur on Friday, due to the start of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month.

In response to the accusations from Karzai's rivals, a panel of international election experts, appointed to examine complaints from the candidates, recommended isolating about 50 to 100 ballot boxes for further investigation, Austin said. The board quarantined boxes from 21 polling sites.

Insurgents Bomb Compound In Iraq Killing 3 Americans

By Dexter Filkins

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Insurgents penetrated the heavily guarded governmental compound in Baghdad on Thursday, setting off a pair of bombs within minutes of each other in the Green Zone and killing five people, including at least three Americans, and wounding 20 others.

Witnesses said at least one explosion had been set off by a suicide bomber, and a senior Iraqi official said "initial information" indicated that both had been suicide attacks.

Neither American nor Iraqi government officials had any immediate explanation for how the bombs had been smuggled inside the area, which is sealed off by razor wire, blast walls and checkpoints.

The attack, which struck a cafeteria called the Green Zone Cafe and a shopping bazaar called Vendors' Alley, appeared to be the first by insurgents inside the area, which houses senior officials in the Iraqi government as well as the American Embassy. Insurgents fire mortars and rockets into the Green Zone almost daily, but the shells rarely kill or wound.

Black plumes of smoke billowed upward from the two targets, about

500 yards apart. U.S. officials said the dead included at least three American civilians, one Iraqi and one person whose condition prevented immediate identification. The wounded included 2 U.S. airmen, three American civilians, two British civilians and 13 Iraqi civilians. "People were screaming," said Muhammad al-Obeidi, an Iraqi who was in the cafe when the bomb went off. "I was on the floor. People were stampeding, trying to get out."

One God and Jihad, a group headed by the Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the attacks in a message posted on an Islamist Web site. The attacks came a day after the prime minister of Iraq, Ayad Allawi, demanded that the people of Fallujah, a city controlled by insurgents, hand over Zarqawi or face military action.

"By the grace of God, two lions from the One God and Jihad group's Martyrdom Brigade were successful in entering the base of the American Embassy inside the Green Zone in the capital of Baghdad," the statement said.

The U.S. military has been carrying out almost nightly airstrikes in Fallujah, trying to hit members of

Zarqawi's network. The military said it hit three targets on Thursday, one said to be a "key planning center" for Zarqawi's gang. The military said it had also struck a Zarqawi safe house and a weapons depot.

The three Americans killed in the Green Zone were employees of DynCorp, which is providing security for diplomats in Baghdad, said Mike Dickerson, a spokesman for Computer Services Corp., the parent company, in El Segundo, Calif. Another DynCorp employee was missing, and two were wounded, Dickerson said.

The twin bombings came on the eve of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, and U.S. officers say they are preparing for a surge of violence. Last year, the Ramadan holiday coincided with an offensive by the insurgents, beginning with five suicide bombings, including one at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The attacks Thursday followed a number of efforts by insurgents to get inside the heavily protected area. Last week, security personnel found a bomb planted just outside the cafe that was struck on Thursday. Last month, a woman was stopped while trying to smuggle a bomb inside the main gate.

U.S. May Buy Minimum Annual Vaccine Stock to Boost Supply

By Andrew Pollack

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The government is seriously considering making commitments to buy a certain number of flu shots each year to help bolster supply and avoid severe shortages like the one now, officials said Thursday.

"It clearly on everybody's front burner," Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said in an interview. "How many people do we want to vaccinate next year? Let's buy that amount."

Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary of Health and Human Services, also mentioned the idea Thursday to a group of reporters in Washington, calling it a "Bioshield for flu," according to his spokesman.

Bioshield is a program that spurs companies to develop vaccines and treatments for anthrax and other biological weapons by guaranteeing that the government will purchase them.

Such purchase commitments would not do much to solve this year's situation, which has been marked by the lack of vaccines in many locations, long lines for shots in others, and sharply rising prices around the country.

Government officials are continuing to contact companies that make flu vaccines for other countries to see if they have any excess.

That includes a Canadian company, ID Biomedical, which might have up to 1.5 million excess doses that might be made available to the

United States. President Bush, in his debate with Sen. John Kerry on Wednesday night, referred obliquely to this when he said the government was "working with Canada" to "help us realize the vaccine necessary to make sure our citizens have got flu vaccinations during this upcoming season." The Bush administration has opposed allowing states and individuals to import drugs from Canada, saying they cannot guarantee their safety.

The Food and Drug Administration held a conference call with its Canadian counterpart, Health Canada, on Wednesday and discussed the data that Canada relied upon to approve the vaccine, a spokeswoman for the Canadian agency said.

WEATHER

A Raw Deal

By Michael J. Ring
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

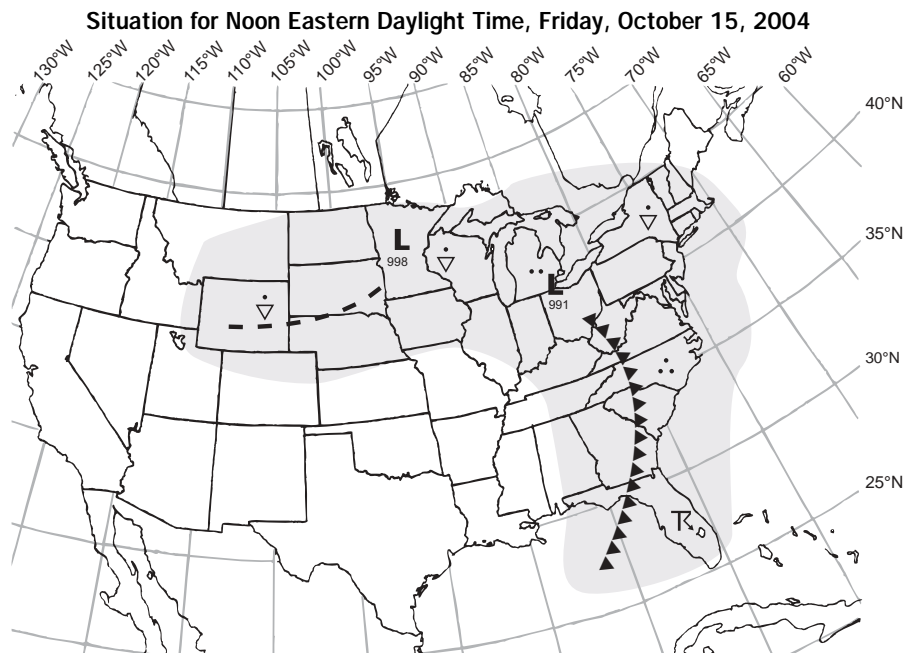
As the leaves begin to fall from the trees and the days grow shorter, today's weather will give us an unpleasant reminder that we are entering a gloomier time of the year.

The culprit responsible for today's rain is a low pressure system currently over the Great Lakes, which will slide eastward toward New England today. After dropping half an inch to an inch of rain over much of the Ohio Valley yesterday, this system should bring us similar amounts of rain today. Additionally, a weaker low pressure system now over the Dakotas will keep the threat of showers in our forecast for Saturday, once the stronger low passes.

The early part of next week should be sunny but temperatures will be seasonably cool. Low temperatures next week will drop to 40°F, even in downtown Boston — another sure sign summer is just a memory.

Extended Forecast:

- Today:** Rain developing in the afternoon. High near 60°F (16°C).
- Tonight:** Rain; may be heavy at times. Low near 55°F (13°C).
- Tomorrow:** Rain ending but lingering showers throughout the day. High near 64°F (18°C).
- Tomorrow night:** Partly cloudy and colder. Low near 45°F (8°C).
- Sunday:** Sunny but cool. High near 60°F (16°C). Low near 40°F (6°C).
- Monday:** Continued sunny but cool, with the high near 60°F (16°C).



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Sharon Aims to Begin Pullout From Gaza in May or June '05

By Greg Myre
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Thursday that he wanted to begin withdrawing Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip next May or June and complete the pullout within three months.

Sharon's comments to a closed session of the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Israeli parliament represented the most specific date he had given for the Gaza evacuation. The Israeli news media reported the remarks, which also were confirmed by participants at the session.

Sharon still must win approval for the plan in parliament, which is scheduled to bring it up for debate

and a vote on Oct. 25. The prime minister suffered a symbolic defeat on Monday when legislators conducted a nonbinding vote and rejected his policy speech opening the current session of parliament. The speech was largely devoted to the Gaza withdrawal.

To protest the Gaza pullout, the Yesha Council, the main group representing the Israeli settlers, said it had organized 100 rallies across the country on Thursday night, including one near Sharon's official residence in Jerusalem. About two-thirds of Israelis support Sharon's plan, opinion surveys show, but the settlers have been conducting large demonstrations to build opposition to it.

Sharon is calling for the evacua-

tion of all 8,000 settlers in Gaza and several hundred in the West Bank, though he also seeks to consolidate Israel's control of the larger West Bank settlements.

He also said Thursday that the Israeli offensive in northern Gaza, which began more than two weeks ago, would be sustained as long as Palestinians continued to fire rockets at Israeli communities.

The Israeli military killed five Palestinians in airstrikes on Thursday, Palestinian hospital officials and witnesses said.

In the Jabaliya refugee camp, the main focus of the Israeli incursion, the air force killed two militants planting a bomb, military people and Palestinians in the camp said.

FCC Clears Access To Internet Over Power Lines

By Stephen Labaton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Clearing the way for homes and businesses to receive high-speed Internet services through their electrical outlets, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules on Thursday that would enable the utility companies to offer an alternative to the broadband communications services now provided by cable and phone companies.

As a further spur to the rollout of broadband Internet services, the FCC also ruled that the regional Bell companies do not have to give competitors access to fiber-optic lines that reach into consumers' home — a decision that prompted two of the Bells, SBC Communications and BellSouth, to announce that they would move quickly to build new fiber-optic networks in residential neighborhoods. The ruling was criticized by the Bells' rivals and consumer groups, which called it anti-competitive and said it would lead to higher prices.

For the electric companies' part, broadband Internet service is more than a year away from becoming widely available. But the agency's ruling is expected to significantly increase the level of investment and interest by the utilities, which had been stymied in previous attempts to offer new services over power lines. They reach more American homes than either telephone lines or television cables.

Report On Prison Abuse Implicates 28 U.S. Soldiers

By Thom Shanker
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A newly completed Army criminal investigation has implicated 28 active-duty and reserve soldiers in the homicides of two Afghan men detained at the American air base at Bagram, Afghanistan, in December 2002, and describes potential offenses ranging from involuntary manslaughter to assault to conspiracy, the Army said Thursday.

One Pentagon official said five or six could face the most serious charges, a decision that now rests with the soldiers' commanders.

Those cited by the investigation include officers — the highest ranking being two captains — noncommissioned officers and enlisted soldiers, according to Pentagon officials familiar with the report. The names were not publicly disclosed.

The inquiry by the Army Criminal Investigation Command involved soldiers from two units deployed at the Bagram Control Point, a detention facility at an American base 40 miles north of Kabul. The Army Reserve unit was the 377th Military Police Company with headquarters at Cincinnati, and the active-duty unit was Company A of the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, whose home is Fort Bragg, N.C.

After photographs of American soldiers abusing detainees at Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad drew global outrage, investigators learned that the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion had played a major role in setting up the prison's interrogation unit.

Chemical Exposures Caused Gulf War Illnesses, Federal Panel Says

By Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal panel of medical experts studying illnesses among veterans of the war in the Persian Gulf has broken with several earlier studies and concluded that many suffer from neurological damage caused by exposure to toxic chemicals, rejecting past findings that the ailments resulted mostly from wartime stress.

Citing new scientific research on the effects of exposure to low levels of neurotoxins, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses concludes in its draft report that "a substantial proportion of Gulf War veterans are ill with multi-

symptom conditions not explained by wartime stress or psychiatric illness."

It says a growing body of research suggests that many veterans' symptoms have a neurological cause and that there is a "probable link" to exposure to neurotoxins. The report says possible sources include sarin nerve gas from an Iraqi weapons depot exploded by U.S. forces in 1991; a drug, pyridostigmine bromide, given to troops to protect against nerve gas; and pesticides used to protect soldiers in the region.

The chairwoman of a presidential advisory group, Dr. Joyce C. Lashof, that reported in 1996 there was no causal link between toxic exposure and the veterans' symptoms, said

Thursday that she had not seen the new report but was open to changing her views if the findings were based on solid new research and not advocacy by veterans' groups.

"We certainly weren't sure that our report was the definitive answer," said Lashof, professor emerita of public health at the University of California at Berkeley. "It was based on the best evidence available at the time."

All the chemicals cited in the new study belong to a group called acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, exposure to which can cause a range of symptoms including pain, fatigue, diarrhea and cognitive impairment, according to the draft report obtained by *The New York Times*.

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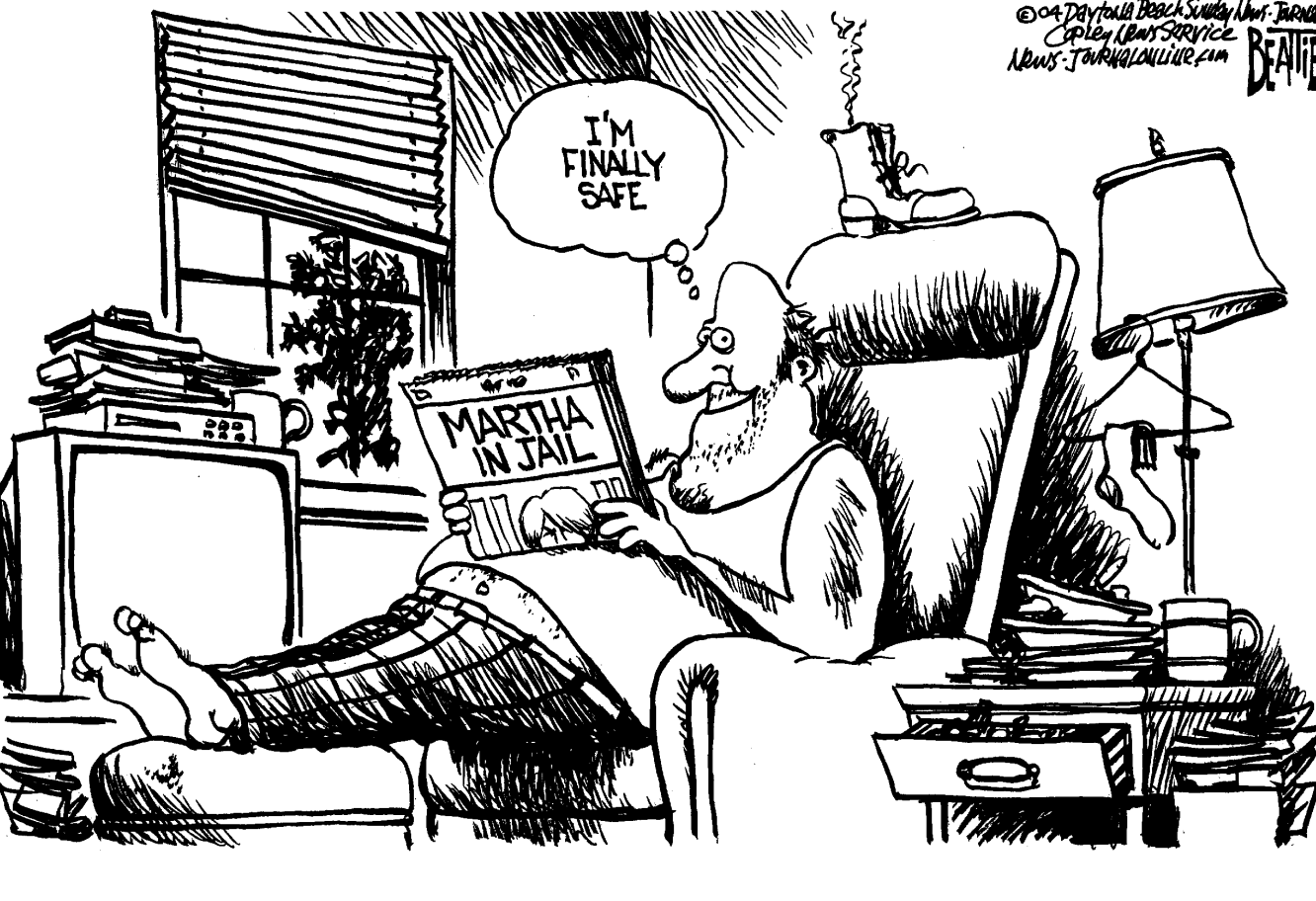
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Letters To The Editor

Security the Only Real Issue Here

This is now the second column ["Time to Dismantle 'Pay as You Go'", Oct. 12] by Mr. Nesmith highlighting the advantages of small-government ideology, and thus the Bush agenda. But while he talks about Medicare and

taxation, he forgets that there is really only one major issue at stake in this election: homeland security and the eradication of terrorism. On this issue, the administration's actions can only be deemed a catastrophic failure; the President cannot seem to internalize the fact that small underground cells, and not large nation-states, are the breeding

grounds of terrorists. (Or perhaps Mr. Nesmith has a small-government approach to this problem as well?) For people who believe that homeland security is more important than all other issues combined, Kerry is the only reasonable choice.

Amal Dorai '05

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 editors, 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.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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The Party's Over

Alexander Del Nido

In May 2004, the Cato Institute, a libertarian think-tank in Washington D.C., held a conference on the legacy of the ten years of Republican Party control of Congress since 1994. Past leaders of the so-called "Republican Revolution" of that year were asked to speak on the accomplishments of the last ten years and on the future of the Republican Party in Washington. Figures such as former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey gave their opinions on the state of the GOP today, and the outlook was bleak; the party has "traded in ideology for interest groups," said Gingrich. The GOP has begun "doing the wrong things so we can get re-elected," concurred Armey.

Though we won't hear them so close to the coming elections, a growing chorus of Republicans in and out of Washington are raising concerns over the trend the party has taken since the late 1990's; even the paleo-conservative Pat Buchanan has warned of a coming "civil war" for the party's soul. This GOP introspection has been prompted by the fact that the party has been in control of all three branches of the federal government and the majority of state legislatures and governorships for four years, and

yet it is very far from certain that the country is better off for it. Diehard GOP partisans like Karl Rove and Dennis Hastert like to say that theirs is a new "permanent majority" party, but this sunny view of a perpetually red America ignores the rust spreading on the GOP armor. For example, when the House adjourned at the end of the summer it could not even pass a budget for the year 2005 due to squabbles among Republicans. Fifty-two percent of the American people now disapprove of the job Congress has been doing, up from 40 percent before 2001. Recent polls show that the American public thinks John Kerry and the Democrats have better plans to deal with every single important domestic issue except taxes, a traditional GOP strong suit, and even on taxes the Republican support is slim.

The battle within the Republican Party, as the Washington Monthly put it, is between the "small-government conservatives" like Gingrich, who want to return to the stringent spending of 1980 and 1994, and the more moderate reform conservatives like John McCain, who looks back to the governing style of Theodore Roosevelt in 1904. However, while looking back for a solution to their problem may end up helping in the long term, today, despite its seemingly-monolithic power, the GOP lacks a coherent ideology, confuses spe-

cial interests with the interests of the whole country, and like the Democrats of the 1970's and 1980's, is heading into decline.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan's proposals for tax cuts, minimal government spending, and smaller government made sense after an era of ruinous runaway spending. For years, Democrats had held together an increasingly fractious coalition under the banner that government could solve all problems. By 1980, Americans had outgrown this view. Now, the Republicans are very much like those Democrats of the 1970's; their uneasy factions have coalesced around a policy of further permanent tax cuts, while the exact opposite is needed in order to deal with the two biggest problems facing the country in the next ten years — the threat of terrorism, and the explosion of Medicare and Social Security costs that will come with the retirement of the baby boomer generation.

Further cause for concern is that despite the party's control of Washington, its accomplishments have been meager. The Bush tax cut has produced only a feeble economic recovery, the Medicare reform bill is so generous towards the pharmaceutical industry that only 25 percent of senior citizens support it, and the energy policy was drafted by oil executives and yielded nothing except skyrocketing gas and oil prices. The GOP is so wedded to its special

interest supporters that it cannot stop itself from passing policies that do not advance the interests of everyone else — meanwhile, the voters are defecting in the polls to support Democrats over Republicans on these domestic issues.

A change in the GOP is possible, though not terribly likely — the moderate David Brooks wrote recently in *The New York Times Magazine* that the party would sustain its "permanent majority" and, more importantly, would govern the country better, if it adopted a platform of "progressive conservatism"; the GOP should abandon the "big government is the enemy" mantra of the Reagan years, and instead use somewhat bigger government and higher taxes to reform entitlement programs and balance the budget. However, without a Bush defeat in November, it's unlikely that Republican leaders will wake up and realize that they have to change their practices for the sake of the country they control. Bill Clinton managed to drag the Democratic party to the center of the ideological spectrum only after three successive presidential defeats and the loss of control of Congress — if the GOP wants to continue to be America's "permanent majority" party, maybe they should take a few lessons from the former President, once derided as "Slick Willie."

Affirmative Action Doesn't Shortchange Others

Jacob Faber
and Pius Uzamere

Nicholas Baldasaro's column "Affirmative Action and Human Psychology," featured in *The Tech* Oct. 5, 2004, is one of the most offensive pieces of writing we've seen that hasn't come from the desk of Clarence Thomas. His article attempts to make the following argument:

1. Affirmative action allows for the promotion of "low talent individuals," and classifies these individuals as handicapped.

2. Due to this unbalanced advancement scheme, all white males scrutinize their accomplishments, "as a simple matter of prudence."

3. This process systematically damages the psyches of all women and minorities; since they all feel the need to prove their qualifications to every new person with whom they interact.

4. Eliminating affirmative action where competition amongst individuals is important, like the workplace, will solve this problem.

The author's arguments are predicated on his assumption that affirmative action allows low talent, underrepresented minorities to get into positions that low talent white men can not. Not only is the assumption he makes grossly incorrect, showing a dramatic lack of research into the subject matter about which he pontificates, the implication of his article is incredibly offensive and, indeed, the ultimate irony: his article exemplifies the very sort of ignorant, faux-authoritative bashing of affirmative action that engenders distrust of qualified women and minorities in this country today.

Mr. Baldasaro's lack of knowledge about affirmative action is clearly manifested in the personal story he uses as an argument. He explains that when he was young, he was terrible at tennis. His instructor allowed him three attempts to serve to give him a chance at getting better. Baldasaro claims that his peers, due to this flexing of the rules, never gave him the respect he deserved and equates it with the discrimination women and minorities will face with each new person they meet. This parallel is absurd. This example has no relevance to a discussion of affirmative action, which is not about assisting poorly skilled candidates, but about assisting those who are victims of systematic discrimination.

Baldasaro's likening of his female and underrepresented-minority colleagues to terrible tennis players, who are given three serves instead of one in order to be allowed to play with the others, is damaging. The same can be said for his jerry-rigged "solution," which demonstrates the racial undertones that underpin the thoughts of many people in positions of power and, sadly, necessitate the continued need for affirmative action in the near term. The solution we see to the psychological damage pointed to in the article is to educate people like Mr. Baldasaro about the true definition of affirmative action.

The confusion over what a well-tailored affirmative action policy entails is a legitimate problem. Like any other policy, there are poor implementations in existence — some of which may actually support Baldasaro's point. These implementations are the exception, not the

norm. The fact is, affirmative action at MIT and other institutions that have implemented the policy properly is not about promoting "low talent individuals," as Mr. Baldasaro so offensively states. A good starting point for the research of Mr. Baldasaro and others may be to e-mail MIT Director of Admissions Marilee Jones (marilee@mit.edu) and ask to schedule an appointment. She's a nice lady and we are confident that she would make some time available.

For those who would rather research in private, here's the truth in a nutshell: every single student at MIT was subjected to a detailed admissions process during which he or she was deemed to be capable of being productive and successful at MIT. Period.

Affirmative action comes into play only at the final stages when making the extremely difficult decisions that come along with deciding between two qualified applicants. This is the time when the admission staff is comparing the "fit to the Institute" of Bobby, whose dad paid for him to learn 10 different languages and backpack through Europe for a semester, to that of Jerry, who started the world's first solar-powered electric violin club at his local church and snorkels on weekends. Notice how none of these activities are essential to determining whether or not these students can graduate from MIT, but only to guessing at what each student's potential contribution is to the positive atmosphere at MIT. Yet, these types of things are used in colleges and companies across the country to decide between two qualified applicants.

In considering the applications of those applicants for whom affirmative action applies, MIT simply faces the facts and recognizes that the race and gender of these qualified, underrepresented applicants do have the potential to contribute positively to the environment at MIT. No white male is "losing" a spot to a less qualified woman or minority, and no "low talent" individuals are being given an extra chance to serve their ball. As much as some people like to deny it, the presence of different races and genders at MIT is important. The issue is not just intellectual diversity and it is not just socioeconomic diversity. Yes, we said it: diversity in race and gender is important. If you don't believe us, try asking ten of your underrepresented colleagues whether or not it is important. Better yet, try moving to a country in which your race is practically non-existent, and write us back in four years to tell us if you noticed a difference in your experience.

In 2003, MIT, Stanford, and others filed a joint amicus brief supporting affirmative action in the cases of Grutter v. Bollinger, et al and Gratz and Hamacher, petitioners v. Bollinger, et al (also known as the University of Michigan affirmative action cases). In this brief, MIT and Stanford discuss the fact that their affirmative action policies are only applied after students have been deemed qualified for admission:

"Both MIT and Stanford confine in-depth consideration to candidates likely to have strong prospects for academic success at these institutions by first setting a high threshold level of intellectual ability and achievement. Both schools discern this required minimum level of qualification from a number of indicators, which include grades and test scores and do not

include race. These are the students who, based on these indicators, demonstrate a high level of qualification and the ability to succeed academically."

MIT President Charles Vest said in a statement announcing this brief:

"Schools like MIT or Stanford University first establish which of their applicants cross a high bar of academic quality based on a range of indicators such as grades, test scores and class rank — but not including race.

"Then we make difficult, subjective choices from among those applicants who crossed the high bar by assessing as best we can the whole person. Race is one of many factors considered at this stage to build an understanding of who each person is, and the context in which they have demonstrated accomplishment, creativity and drive."

Now, either MIT perjured itself at the Supreme Court or Baldasaro is correct that affirmative action policies cause unqualified, "low talent" minorities to get positions over qualified white males. We'll put our money on MIT. Of course, there are bound to be a few places where quotas and discrimination are put to work and called "affirmative action." Those places are not using affirmative action — they are bastardizing a good policy and are likely in violation of federal law.

Back to the article, Mr. Baldasaro mentions that "all minorities become suspect in the eyes of non-minorities, as a simple matter of prudence." It is not clear what this statement is saying. Is he implying that all non-minorities are racist, and automatically doubt the ability of all women and minorities? Or maybe he is saying that all women and minorities deserve this discrimination because they have been spoon-fed success, and that only white males are worthy of respect. Either interpretation is quite frightening.

Mr. Baldasaro should be embarrassed of his caustic comparison of minorities and women to handicapped individuals. Must Condoleezza Rice, an admitted beneficiary of affirmative action programs, "prove... herself time and time again to each new person?" I wonder how many people who see her on CNN think, "How good are you, really?" as Baldasaro contends to be such a problem.

As minorities we are terrified of people, who, while perhaps well-intentioned, have a twisted understanding of the goals of affirmative action and make wild assumptions about those people whom it affects. Furthermore, we fear for their future employees, who will no doubt be under intense and unwarranted scrutiny.

MIT has done a great deal to support of women and minorities. However, reflection on our four-year tenure here has sadly caused us to come to the conclusion that MIT still has a great deal of work to do in terms of educating its students on issues of race and diversity. When even campus leaders such as Mr. Baldasaro (Burton-Conner President) hold these attitudes, it is obvious that some members of the MIT community still make MIT a less welcoming place for women and minorities than it could be.

Jacob Faber is a graduate student and Pius Uzamere is class of 2004.

In Response

Nicholas Baldasaro

Pius Uzamere and Jacob Faber's response to my earlier article ["Affirmative Action and Human Psychology", Oct. 5] opens to further debate many points about affirmative action and other diversity outreach programs. Their article contains several interesting ideas, and they are to be commended for bringing a new and experienced perspective to what is a very polarizing issue in order to stimulate good debate. However, upon reading their thoughts on my article, I notice that several of my arguments were misunderstood or misinterpreted, and it is in the interest of good debate to correct these misconceptions. In addition, I respectfully disagree with many of their conclusions, and I hope to show that there is middle ground to be had on the matter.

It should first be noted that Uzamere and Faber are in complete agreement with my main argument — to use their words, that "there are poor implementations in existence... [and that] these implementations are the exception, not the norm." This is precisely the point upon which my original article is based, where I argued that the existence of any exceptions casts a doubt over the whole body of qualified minorities.

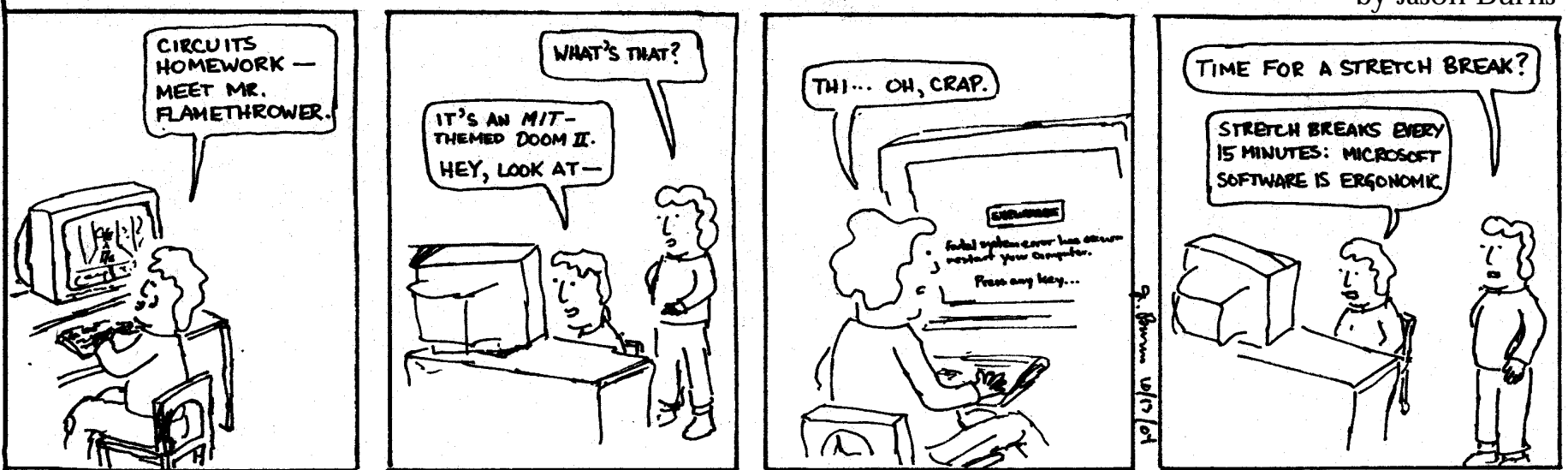
Uzamere and Faber voice concern that my ideas support the acceptance of discrimination or imply that affirmative action recipients are intrinsically less skilled. Nothing could more poorly represent my ideas. In my original article, I stated with my tennis metaphor that, "I was as good a player as anyone else," the implication being that I affirm the talent of minorities to be intrinsically equal to that of non-minorities. I also stated that it was difficult to provide the positive side of affirmative action without, "causing all the harm of which I have spoken," implying that the shreds of doubt that greet the talents of recipients of affirmative action are harmful and unfortunate. Uzamere's and Faber's interpretation were not what I had intended.

Uzamere and Faber rightly point out that everyone at MIT deserves to be here — our hard work is one of our communal strengths. Uzamere and Faber rightly imply that affirmative action should be designed towards eventual dismantlement — as they imply when they say it remains necessary in the near term. Their concerns about minorities' talents being immediately greeted with doubt are legitimate — we should never make assumptions about people we don't know, or scrutinize strangers' talents based on performance and not skin color. But the fact remains that as long as any "exceptions" exist, there will be doubt, and any analysis of affirmative action would be incomplete if one did not consider the inevitable harm caused by these doubts.

opinion@tt

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by Jason Burns



Trio

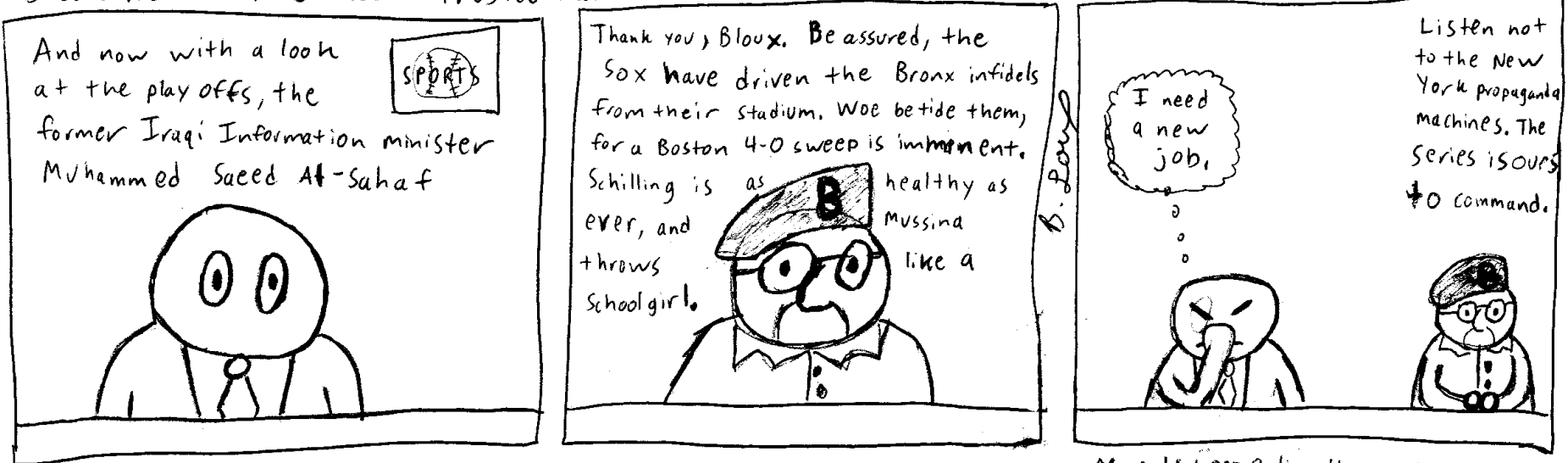
TRIO character biographies: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



Bloux's News: The most trusted name in BS

by Brian Loux



Moral: keep eating the cookies,

Hay Fever

by Jennifer Peng and Qian Wang



-JPeng

10-15-04

Splatform

by James Biggs



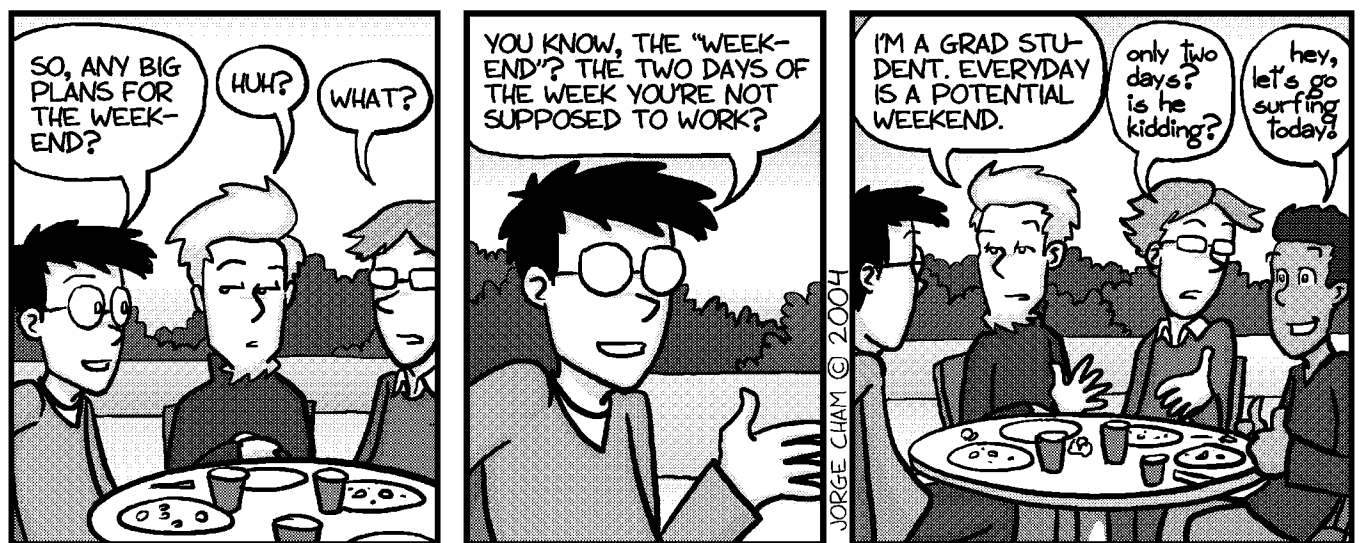
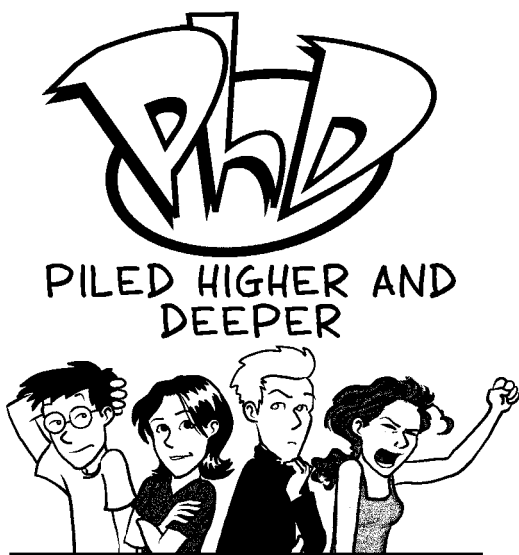
Deviants from the Norm

by A. K. Turza



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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

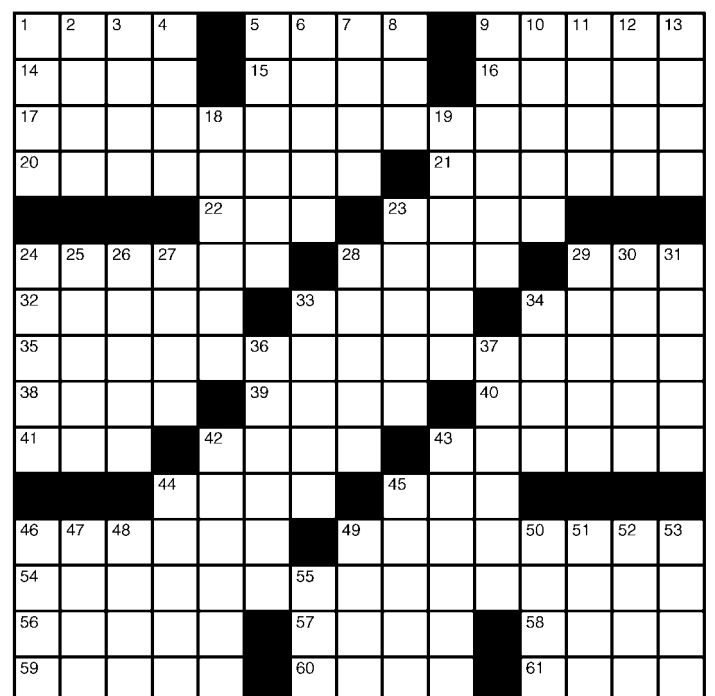
- 1 Wife of Jacob
- 5 Ad award
- 9 Heats
- 14 Beige shade
- 15 Leven or Ness
- 16 Milo of "The Verdict"
- 17 Show no respect for
- 20 W. ___ Maugham
- 21 Conceive mentally
- 22 "___ the ramparts..."
- 23 Editor's note
- 24 Drinking aids
- 28 Get too much sun
- 29 Equality grp.
- 32 Ph.D. exams
- 33 Big truck
- 34 Strike a stance
- 35 Tender touch
- 38 Actor Alan

DOWN

- 1 Oh, why not!
- 2 Repeat
- 3 Jack-in-the-pulpit,
- 39 Work units
- 40 Kindled again
- 41 Sneaky
- 42 Soft cheese
- 43 Small woods
- 44 Hanging to one side
- 45 Old French coin
- 46 Of religious rites
- 49 Ends up
- 54 Fist in the face
- 56 Newspaper edition
- 57 Wash up
- 58 Songstress Fitzgerald
- 59 Fresh
- 60 Guitar ridge
- 61 Actress Cannon

- e.g.
- 4 Actor Cronyn
- 5 Shuts
- 6 One not comfy in company
- 7 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- 8 Cries of surprise
- 9 Expressionless
- 10 Plus item
- 11 Perlman of "Cheers"
- 12 Essence
- 13 Fill too much
- 18 Skim through
- 19 Strong acid
- 23 Cesspools
- 24 Lounge seats
- 25 Fluttering sound
- 26 Singer Travis
- 27 Pond growth
- 28 Sandy color
- 29 Carols
- 30 Actor Davis

- 31 Adam and Rebecca
- 33 Kind of steak
- 34 Private school, briefly
- 36 Do-over in some board games
- 37 In the vicinity
- 42 Jazz drummer Art
- 43 Trumpet's cousin
- 44 Archlike structure
- 45 Smoothly agreeable
- 46 Slalom gear
- 47 Latin handle
- 48 Swear, casually
- 49 Old ruler
- 50 Country near Nor.
- 51 Like a dipstick
- 52 Bruins' sch.
- 53 Stranger ___ fiction
- 55 Christmas helper



CAMPUS LIFE

Worlds Beyond the Mackerel

Money Makes My Head Go Round

By Akshay Patil

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Well, now, aren't you all looking particularly nice today? There's nothing like fall recruitment to throw our campus into a tumultuous time of suits, skirts, and jackets. The days grow colder, midterms wreck havoc, and as the leaves turn yellow, students' thoughts turn to green.

I too admit that my mind didth wander over the last few weeks as I contemplated a life outside the Institute; a life spent primarily in front of a computer, working late, and not eating right... much like life here, except with old people. But hey, I'm an old person too now, so it felt like it was time to slip on the sports jacket, straighten out the thin tie, polish those dress shoes, print out resumes, fill in online forms, schmooze up company information sessions, and show up at the career center for some "justify your existence" exercises.

But that's the same routine I try every year, and look where I am now — a deskless grad student older than ever before in a building where the walls aren't even straight. So I figured maybe this was the year to spice things up; boldly go where many others had gone before, but I had never actually tried. That's right, dry clean the suit, gel the hair, floss the teeth and take a hand at whoring myself out in the wonderful world of

finance.

For someone with close to no idea as to what to do with him/herself (I keep my options open), it seems like a tempting opportunity to give the money thing a spin. After a number of years learning all sort of engineering and analytical skills you find yourself going "uhm, so what now?" and so you go to a finance company info session on a whim and realize that the slides they're showing you say "we want people with engineering and analytical skills." Why that's you! Or me!

But wait a minute, I know absolutely nothing about finance or money. In fact, I have a \$300 reimbursement sitting in my backpack and have yet to pick up my paycheck which has been sitting in Student Services for 2 weeks. Could you really mean me? "No finance experience necessary, we want people eager to learn." I guess so.

So I, like oh so many of the beaver-creed, figured "why the hell not?" and "dropped" my resume. What D.A.R.E. doesn't teach you is that dropping resumes is like dropping acid — before you know it you're in a strange place wearing strange clothes with strange people asking you strange questions. In less than a week I was in a suit being grilled by two MIT alumni working for a large finance company whose name can be

re-arranged to form the phrase "MS-DOS Clan Hag":

Interviewers: So why do you want to work for MS-DOS Clan Hag?

Me: Well, you know I have no idea what to do with my life. Finance sounds interesting and is looking for engineers, so I figured I check it out.

Interviewers: Well we think everyone from MIT is smart, what we want is someone who's passionate about finance. Describe your passion for finance to us.

Me: Uhm? What?

Interviewers: Well, we want people who live and breathe money. You know, someone who eats equities, drinks dividends, sleeps on a bed of bonds, then wakes up in the morning, goes to the bathroom and shits stocks. You're like that, right?

Me: To be honest, I just started thinking about these kind of jobs last week...

Interviewers: But the moment you decided, you stopped working on your thesis and dropped all your classes to learn everything about money... isn't that so? I mean, once you've felt the call of the precious you dedicate your life to its pursuit...

Me: Look, I have absolutely no experience. Look at my resume, I've never even stepped in the same room as money. My interests are "writing, humor, music, and

wasting time on my Web site..." not personal finances. I'm here because I like solving problems and, from what I hear, you've got interesting problems. If you want someone with finance experience, I'm the wrong person; my parents still do my taxes. I thought you guys didn't care about experience so much.

Interviewers: If your personal happiness isn't directly related to the NASDAQ, there's no point in you even being here. Why are we talking to you?

Me: I don't know! I thought you wanted engineers!

Interviewers: Well, it's been nice talking to you...

So for those of you who had terrible interview experiences these last few weeks, take heart in knowing that you are not alone. While most companies don't ask to interview you then reject you based on resume alone, there are always a fun irrational few. If you worry about the future, just do what I did: pick a faculty member and refuse to leave their office until they give you a research project with a semester's worth of funding. Sure you won't get a desk and you have no funding for half a year, but those are the sort of financial problems you know how to deal with.

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

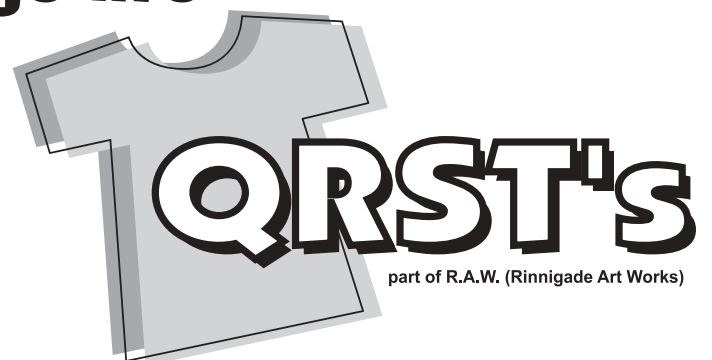
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East Campus Dinner Moves to Building 32

Dining, from Page 1

to add seating” if the dining hall area becomes overcrowded, Berlin said. “Overall, it’s pretty good.” If needed, more tables could possibly be added outside of the dining hall, he said.

“We expected a lot of people to spread out onto the Student Street or outside,” Berlin said. Student Street is the main corridor running through Stata with benches and tables along the walls.

“The plan was that people would learn to make the most” of what was in the Stata Center, Berlin said. “If people explored a little bit, they’d find that there are seats available.”

EC dinners move to Stata

The first East Campus weekly all-you-can-eat dinner of the year

was held on Tuesday in the Forbes Family Cafe, instead of Pritchett Grill, where it has taken place in previous years. General Manager of Community Dining Services Stephen Porter suggested the new location to the housemasters last year.

“I felt it was a very enticing atmosphere... it’s a far better facility,” said Porter. People seemed to be pleased, Porter said, and the rest of the EC dinners will be held in the Stata center as well.

Housemaster and Senior Lecturer Julian K. Wheatley said the \$6.50 dinner, which included turkey with trimmings and vegetarian lasagna, was well-prepared by the chef. The new dining hall is a “nice setting,” said Wheatley, “but some of the furniture is a little strange.”

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Conductor Bill Cutter (right), and the MIT Chamber Choir enjoy a drink at the R and D Pub just before closing time on Thursday night. The pub is located on the fourth floor of the Dreyfoos Tower in Building 32.

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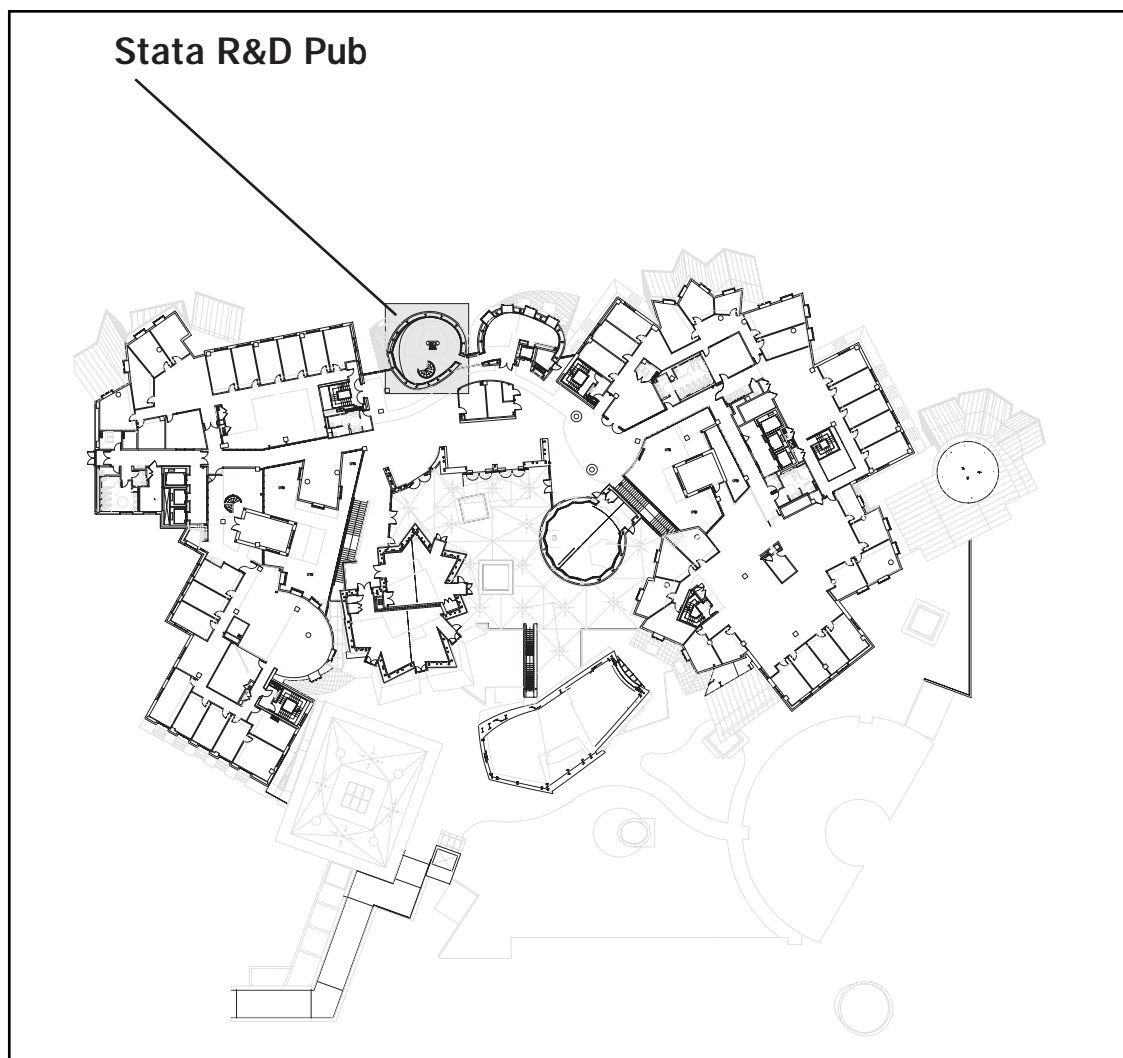
The faculty dining area, on the fourth floor of Building 32 near the R and D Pub, sits empty after hours.

JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Solution to Crossword

L	E	A	H		C	L	I	O		W	A	R	M	S
E	C	R	U		L	O	C	H		O	S	H	E	A
T	H	U	M	B	O	N	E	S		N	O	S	E	A
S	O	M	E	R	S	E	T		I	D	E	A	T	E
					O	E	R		S	T	E	T		
S	T	R	A	W	S		B	U	R	N		N	O	W
O	R	A	L	S		S	E	M	I		P	O	S	E
F	I	N	G	E	R	T	I	P	C	A	R	E	S	S
A	L	D	A		E	R	G	S		R	E	L	I	T
S	L	Y		B	R	I	E		C	O	P	S	E	S
				A	L	O	P		S	O				
S	A	C	R	A	L		T	U	R	N	S	O	U	T
K	N	U	C	K	L	E	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
I	S	S	U	E		L	A	V	E		E	L	L	A
S	A	S	S	Y		F	R	E	T		D	Y	A	N

from page 7



The R and D Pub is on the 4th floor of Stata center, overlooking Vassar St.

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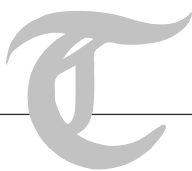
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CI-Ms Three Years Old Without Assessment

CI-M, from Page 1

been "very focused on implementation" of the program, said Anna Frazer, assistant dean for the communication requirement. As a result, they "haven't quite figured out the best way" of assessment, she said.

SOCR is comprised of 14 members, including Redwine, Frazer, two undergraduate representatives, Charles Stewart III, associate dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science, and several faculty members.

Assessment left up to departments

"We haven't started the review process yet," said SOCR Co-Chair Professor Paul L. Penfield Jr.

Though this is the third academic year that CI-M subjects have been offered, "we don't have a means of assuring [their effectiveness] now," said Penfield.

"SOCR has asked itself whether we should have a regular process of reviewing" the CI subjects, Penfield said, and though there is no such process currently in place, some of the committee members think it would be a good idea, he said.

As it stands now, any assessment of the CI-M subjects by the individual departments is the only review of the subject and its effectiveness as a Communication Intensive subject, though many of the CI-M subjects have been offered under that

designation since the 2002-2003 academic year.

"Individual subject assessments should and have been going on all along," Redwine said. "It's not easy, of course, because every student will have a different experience."

Program review planned for 2005

"From the beginning, we have felt it was important to assess the effectiveness," said Redwine, in part because of the plethora of resources the Institute has put into the program's implementation. However, assessment of the actual implementation of the program can only happen now, since it is just being implemented, he said.

Redwine said that SOCR hopes to assess the Communication Requirement in the Spring of 2005 by bringing in a team of individuals outside of MIT to review the individual classes, the organization of the program, and the professional support provided to the teaching staff. This assessment "is not meant to be the beginning and the end," Redwine said, adding that he plans to include questions about the CI-H and CI-M subjects in the senior survey given to the graduating class.

"I think every department has a different situation," said Redwine. "That's not to say there aren't glitches."

The overall authority over CI-M subjects, Redwine said, rests with

the Committee on the Undergraduate Program.

CI-M implementation completed

Penfield said that SOCR began approving CI-M subjects as early as the fall of 2001, though the CI-H subjects were in place before then.

"Of all the CI-Ms, almost all of them were in existence before," though not under the CI-M designation, and were modified to emphasize the communication part of the course, Penfield said. "What they had to do was beef up the communication part."

However, it wasn't until the 2002-2003 academic year, when the current seniors were sophomores, that subjects were actually offered with the CI-M designation, Frazer said.

The departments faced a summer 2002 deadline in designating subjects as CI-M, Penfield said, in order to ensure placement in the 2002-2003 Bulletin. While most departments complied, "some threw things together rather rapidly, especially at the senior level," since they knew students wouldn't immediately be taking those classes, said Penfield.

This academic year marks the first year that all of the CI-M subjects in every department are being offered, just in time for the Class of 2005 to graduate, said Frazer. "The challenge has been the sheer volume" of CI-M subjects, she said.

Penfield said the timing was crucial because, depending on the department, students have little or no flexibility in choosing CI-Ms but have several CI-H subjects to choose from.

"Every department that has a degree program was mandated by the faculty to have two" CI-M subjects, said Penfield. "When you come to the department program, you don't have to choose a CI-M, usually all you have to do is satisfy the degree requirements for the department."

Seniors must complete CI-Ms

Frazer said that a special tool was developed to track student's completion of CI subjects to ensure they are taken at the expected rate of one per year.

Upperclassmen in some majors have encountered difficulties with scheduling CI-M subjects and planning around subjects that have only been finalized in the past year or so.

In Course VI, for example, many seniors encountered scheduling conflicts with the required CI-M subject 6.UAT (Preparation for Undergraduate Advanced Project), which is a prerequisite for 6.UAP (Undergraduate Advanced Project).

Course Administrator Anne M. Hunter said that because of the scheduling problems, students will be allowed to petition to take both subjects at the same time.



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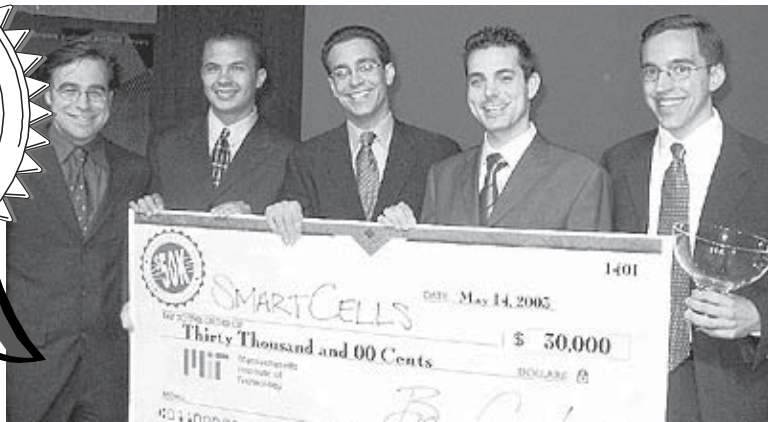
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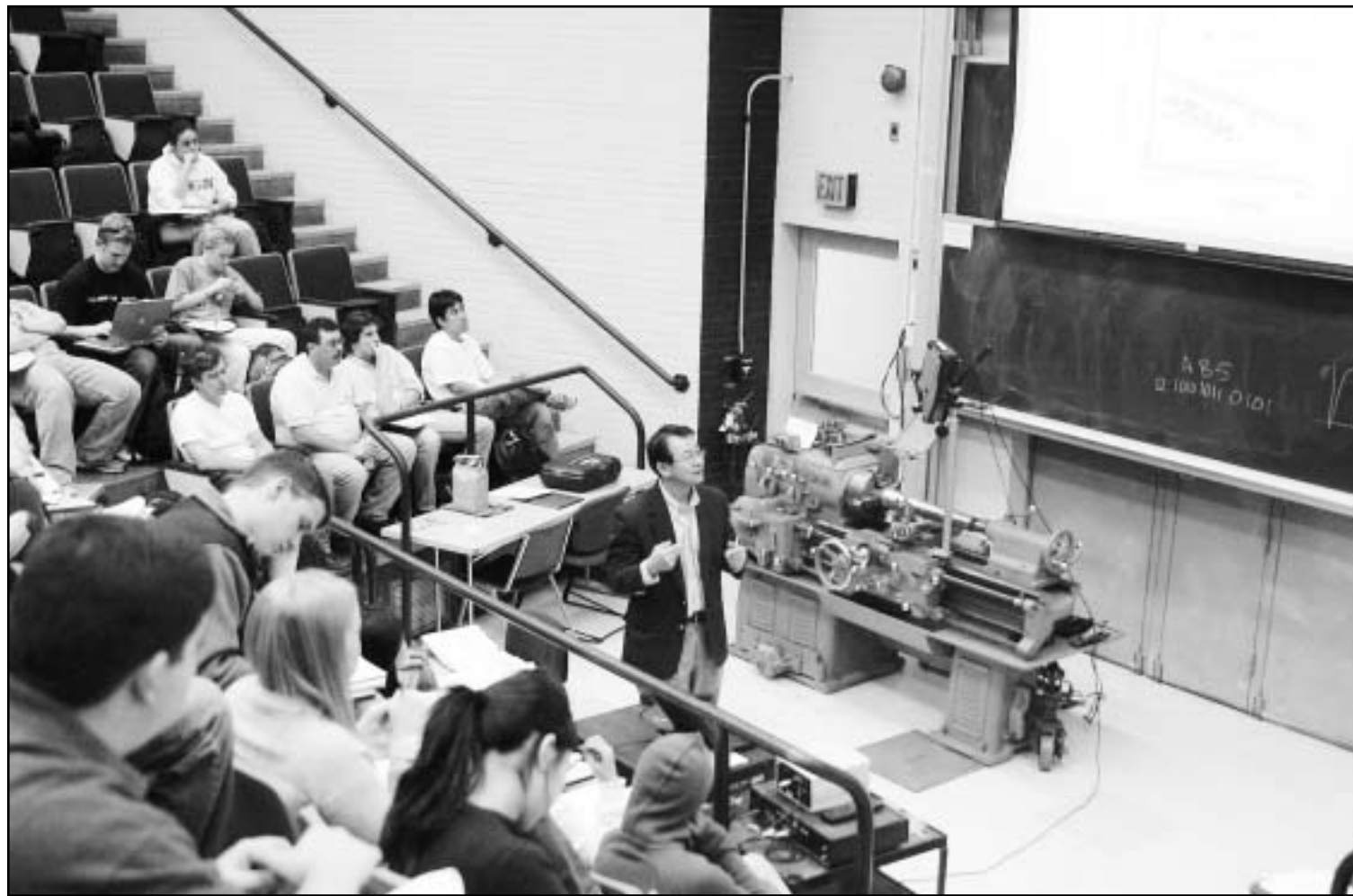
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Ask a MedLink

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Dear MedLink: Whenever I see a male doctor at MIT Medical, they always ask me if I'm pregnant. I'm sick of this question. I haven't had sex yet, so I know I'm not pregnant. Why do they keep asking? It's embarrassing. —**Feeling Pestered**

Dear Pestered: I've also been asked this question by MIT Medical clinicians—both male and female. Like you, I wondered why they were asking me. So I asked them!

Turned out, it wasn't just me. Clinicians routinely ask this question of all female patients, because the answer can often determine decisions about diagnostic tests or treatments. For example, if your doctor is considering something as simple as an x-ray or certain prescription drugs, he or she absolutely needs to know if there is any chance you might be pregnant. Certain drugs taken during pregnancy can cause health problems in a pregnant woman and birth defects in a baby; radiation from an x-ray can also harm a developing fetus.

I totally understand that it is not always easy for people to discuss more intimate issues with their doctors (or their parents or friends, for that matter). That's why it's so important to choose a personal physician with whom you feel comfortable. Once you've met with your personal physician a few times and developed some trust, it will be easier to discuss all your health concerns.

—**Pam**

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Extension for Media Lab Awaits Funding

Construction, from Page 1

said he is currently working with Dean of the School of Science Robert J. Silbey to secure the additional funding, and he does not anticipate a problem with finding it in time for the opening of the building.

Media Lab Extension still on hold

Construction on an extension to the Media Lab has been delayed for over three years because the economic recession forced several donors to retract their promised funding, Mitchell said.

As to a date when construction might begin, "my guess is within a few months," Mitchell said.

The total cost of the extension will be about 97.5 million dollars,

with 20 to 25 million dollars in funding still lacking. Originally, the cost of the building was anticipated to be about 30 million dollars more, but at the time of the delay the construction plans were changed to cut the costs, mostly by eliminating basement space, Mitchell said.

Mitchell said that Media Lab is currently "desperate for the [additional] space to accommodate existing activities" and new activities as well. He said that value of the project is "both functional and cultural," referring to the innovation of architect Fumihiko Maki.

Once funding is secured, a new project team will be created, as the original team was disbanded during the delay. Mitchell estimates construction would take about 26 months in a best-case scenario.

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SPORTS

Field Hockey Beats Wheaton 2-1

By Caitlin Murray
STAFF WRITER

The field hockey team gave their fans (outnumbered 17 to 5) something to cheer about Tuesday as they improved their record to 7-5 with a

2-1 win over the Wheaton College Lyons.

Just three minutes into the game, on an uncharacteristically sloppy attack, Wheaton's Lyndsie Ryalls managed to penetrate the Engineers defense, scoring an unassisted goal, for the Lyons first and only point of the game.

Undeterred by Wheaton's early lead, the Engineers commanded the field for much of the first half, taking advantage of the Lyons slightly weaker defense. Noelle J. Kanaga '06 and Deanna M. Lentz '06 led attack after attack for the Engineers, making it only a matter of time before a shot made it through the defense.

Twenty minutes in, Anna E. Ayuso '07 drove the ball up the field and was challenged at the net by Wheaton goaltender Emily

Fiskio. Fiskio came out of the net, deflecting the shot but leaving the goal open for Margaret H. Gentile '06, who drove the ball home on the rebound.

Wheaton attempted to take the lead again late in the first half, but failed to capitalize on three consecutive penalty corners, as Cheryl A. Texin '06 cleared the ball after the third corner with a powerful shot to the other end of the field, setting up the next goal for MIT.

With five minutes left in the first half, and the ball in Wheaton territory, Lentz scored an unassisted goal, giving the Engineers a lead they would keep for the rest of the game.

It was far from easy to maintain that lead, however. Late in the second half, the game acquired a sense of frantic urgency, as Wheaton sought any opportunity to tie it up, and fans on both sides of the field grew surprisingly boisterous (the Wheaton fans for fear of worsening their losing record of 4-6, the MIT fans for fear of a long overtime on metal bleachers in 50° weather).

Midway through the second half,

chasing a typical hard hit by Texin, Lentz took a face-first dive into the turf, knocking her out of the game. Whether because of the loss of their top scorer, or just fatigue, the Engineers were unable to mount the same offensive effort seen in the first half, accruing only four shots throughout the span of the second half.

However, this did not stop the Engineers from shining defensively, allowing only one shot on goal. Sharon M. Prange '07 made for a powerful presence at midfield by doggedly pursuing the Lyons and repeatedly knocking the ball out of MIT territory. This allowed Amanda P. Hunter '07 to show off her speed as she invariably beat her Wheaton counterpart to the ball after it was cleared into Wheaton territory.

The Engineers managed to hold onto their lead through the second, improving their conference record to 2-2. They will travel to Mount Holyoke on Saturday, where a win would give MIT a winning conference record for the first time this season.

Drugs and the Fall Of '96 MVP Caminiti

By Yong-yi Zhu

COLUMNIST

Troubling years finally came to a troubling end when Ken Caminiti died of a heart attack at the age of 41 on Sunday afternoon. The reason for the heart attack is yet

unknown, but an autopsy is being conducted to find the cause.

Caminiti was the National League MVP in 1996 while playing with the San Diego Padres, and he took the team to the World Series. He played for 15 years total, with the time split between the Astros, Padres, Rangers, and Braves. After his tenure in baseball, Caminiti admitted to using steroids during his 1996 MVP season and speculated that half of the baseball players used the drug.

Caminiti spent the last day of his life with an ex-con, Rob Silva, who told *Newsday* that Caminiti seemed edgy. Silva reported that Caminiti did not take any drugs or drink in the hours before his death, despite the guess that his death is caused by some combination of the two.

Early last week, Caminiti tested positive for cocaine, violating his parole after being released from jail. He had previously spent 189 days in prison for possession of cocaine, on a felony charge.

Caminiti's problems almost certainly did not stem from Major League Baseball, but the League did not help. When you know that even your MVP's are using performance enhancing drugs, you cannot simply turn a blind eye. Sure, there are measures being put into place to randomly test for drugs, but they are not close to thorough or comprehensive enough.

What does it say about a sport when both of its best players this year, and most likely the American League and National League MVP's, in Gary Sheffield and Barry Bonds have had relations with performance enhancing drugs? Sheffield already admitted to using a steroid cream in the past, and it is quite apparent that Bonds has done more than that.

Of course, if you find the players that are using performance enhancing

drugs, you can give them help before they turn to something worse. Or, you can catch the players that are using illegal drugs and at least try to fix their problems now, as the NFL's substance abuse program attempts to do.

Most people will abide by the laws of their sport when confronted with the choice of playing and getting paid or taking drugs and not having a salary. Not many people are going to do what Ricky Williams did and leave the NFL because he had earned enough money and just wanted to smoke marijuana. But the issue isn't just drugs, it's about being a role model.

In fact, the public no longer looks up to most sports stars and oftentimes sees them more as people with huge problems. An example of a bad role model is Mike Tyson. He pretty much did every bad thing imaginable and has fallen tremendously since the days he was mostly known for his boxing conquests. Tyson has gone from having millions of dollars to having millions of people look down on him. He has declared bankruptcy and has also embarrassingly lost a supposed easy match in the ring.

A more shocking example of a great role model turned bad is Kobe Bryant. Before his turn to adultery, Kobe was the sweet young star ready to propel the Lakers to more championships than even Phil Jackson could imagine. Then came the one night in a Colorado hotel room.

From now on, Kobe will be known as much for his choices off the court as on it, and his innocence will be lost forever.

No matter what Charles Barkley says, athletes are our role models. This means that they have a big responsibility to the general public. Children look up to them. Even adults look up to them. In addition, we love to write about them, good or bad.

However, athletes must realize that no matter how they feel, they are not superhuman and are not above the law. Mike Tyson, Ricky Williams and Kobe Bryant should all realize that. Too bad for Ken Caminiti, he didn't find out until it was too late.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, October 15th

Varsity Pistol vs. Coast guard, MIT Pistol and Rifle Range, 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 16th

Varsity Pistol vs. Coast guard, MIT Pistol and Rifle Range, 9 a.m.
Varsity Coed Sailing hosts Smith Trophy, Charles River, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Rugby Club, Briggs Field, 10 a.m.
Varsity Women's Soccer vs. Mount Holyoke College, Steinbrenner Stadium, 10:30 a.m.
Varsity Football vs. UMass-Dartmouth, Steinbrenner Stadium, 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 17th

Varsity Coed Sailing hosts Oberg Trophy, Charles River, 9:30 a.m.

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DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Midfielder Chase J. Lochmiller '08 goes up for a header as the Wentworth Institute of Technology goalkeeper loses control of the ball in mid-air during one of MIT's countless attacks.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

MIT defender Michael R. Allshouse '08 attempts to block his opponent's advance in a game last Monday afternoon in Steinbrenner Stadium. MIT demolished the Wentworth Institute of Technology 6-0. By the second half, nearly all of Wentworth's starter squad had been replaced with reserve players.

Happy Friday!