

# Red Sox Win World Series!

MIT's  
Oldest and Largest  
Newspaper



## The Weather

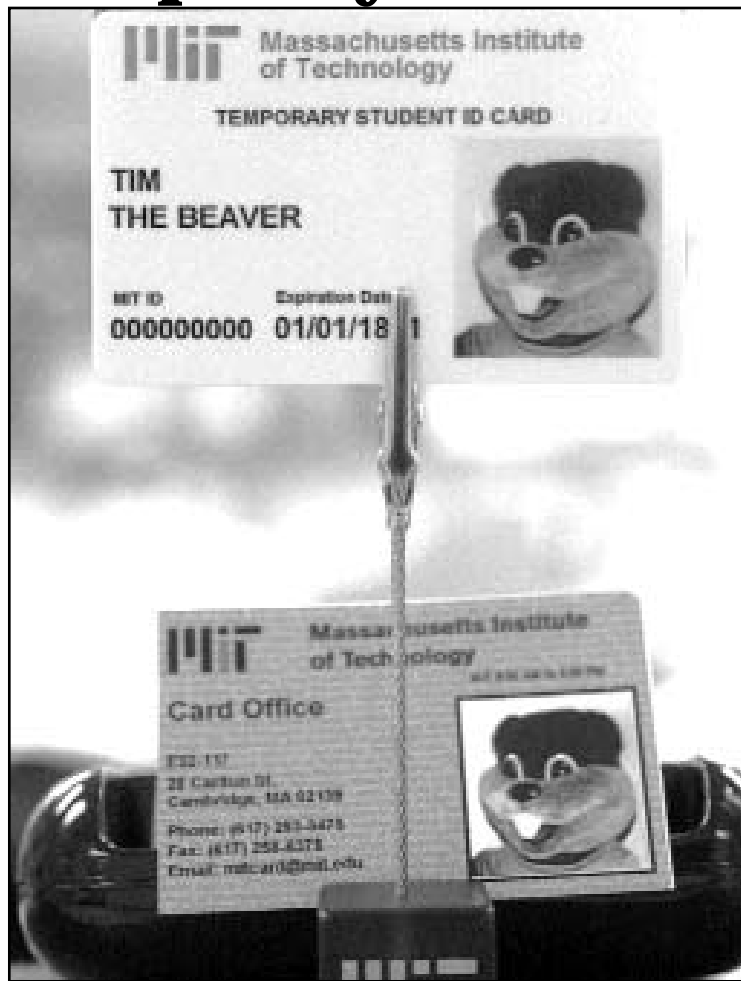
Today: Partly cloudy, 60°F (15°C)  
Tonight: More clouds, 48°F (9°C)  
Tomorrow: Showers, 65°F (18°C)  
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Volume 124, Number 49

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, October 29, 2004

## Temporary ID Cards are Issued



NICOLE KOULISIS

A sample temporary student ID card is on display next to a standard ID card at the MIT Card Office desk in E32-117.

By Tiffany Chen  
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT Card Office, located in E32 near MIT Medical, has run out of the standard gray striped student ID cards. In the meantime, it is providing temporary white ID cards to students who need replacement cards.

All other MIT ID cards have been unaffected, said John M. McDonald, Associate Director of Enterprise Services. The Card Office is located near MIT Medical.

McDonald said the temporary white ID cards function in the same way as regular student ID cards, providing access to certain campus buildings and TechCASH. The only difference is appearance, he said. He predicts the gray cards will arrive mid-November, though the final date has not been set.

Students using the temporary ID cards will need to exchange them for standard gray cards before the temporary card expiration date of Jan. 31, 2005, McDonald said.

McDonald said that the shortage of gray student ID cards was due to problems with the company that delivers the cards pre-printed to the Card Office. He said as a result of these printing problems, it is possible that future student ID cards may look different, for example having a white background.

## EC Works on Meeting Cambridge Fire Code

By Jenny Zhang  
NEWS EDITOR

Residents of the East Campus dormitory recently made changes to its interior, including uninstalling wiring in lounges and removing Caution signs, in order to satisfy fire safety regulations upheld by the City of Cambridge.

On October 6, Cambridge City inspector Michael Grover walked through East Campus and found 19 violations, Director of Housing Karen Nilsson wrote in an e-mail forwarded to East Campus residents. The inspector gave EC members two weeks to address these violations, and upon the second inspection last Friday, he was satisfied with the changes made, Nilsson said.

David M. Barber, Assistant Safety Officer of the Environment, Heath, and Safety Office, said he accompanied Grover on the first inspection, which was not announced until the day it occurred.

The inspection is required for yearly renewal of residence lodging licenses necessary for occupation of

all MIT residence halls, Nilsson said. She said Cambridge City officers could conduct unannounced inspections of MIT housing at any time.

"It's serious, because they could have taken away our occupancy certificate" because of the violations and "legally they could kick us out," said Jesse L. Austin-Breneman '05, EC house president.

All the residence halls were inspected, Nilsson said, but only at East Campus were serious issues raised. EC has a "strong and wonderful tradition" of creativity, but Nilsson pointed out that this did not have to conflict with fire safety code.

### Residents make changes for safety

Nilsson said fire code violations included objects hanging off sprinkler heads, bikes chained in stairwells, "unauthorized wiring," installed by students, and painted fire strobe lights.

Austin-Breneman said there

EC, Page 17

## Praeses ex Machina: Voting Tech '04

By Kelley Rivoire  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Any democratic election seeks to elect the candidate with the greatest number of votes. But what happens when the votes aren't counted correctly? The 2000 elections, highlighted by the punch card debacle in Florida, proved that voting technology needed improvement. Four years later, new technologies provide the promise of a better election, but also the potential for new complications.

What are these new technologies, will they improve our elections, and are they the future of elections in America? Will this election proceed without a hitch, or should we expect another incarnation of the 2000 Florida controversy?

**New technologies for 2004**

In this presidential election, more than 40 states will use new voting technologies approved by standards from the 2002 Federal Election Commission, said Professor Ted Selker, co-director of the MIT/Caltech Voting Technology Project.

In the 2000 presidential election, fifty percent of those who voted recorded their votes with the

traditional methods of paper, punch cards, and lever machines, Selker said, citing data collected by Election Data Services. This Tuesday, that number is expected to drop to 26.9 percent, Selker said.

The two major technologies replacing many of the traditional methods are optical scans and Direct Electronic Register machines, or DREs.

Optical scan machines work similarly to paper ballots, but are scannable, and therefore countable, by computer. The optical scan machines are the dominant new technology used in the northeast, said Benjamin M. Adida G, a graduate student working on the VTP. The optical scan machines in Massachusetts include a feature that allows voters to assure that their ballot scans properly before exiting the polling place.

DREs, on the other hand, are entirely computer-based. The voter uses a computer interface to electronically record his choices, and a database stores the results.

In addition to the better tabulation, optical scan machines have the benefit of good recovery of votes if necessary, while DREs provide advantages in the user interface, as users can easily adjust the typeface or language, said Professor Stephen

Ansolabehere, a member of the VTP.

In the 2000 election, 37.5 percent of voters used either optical scans or DREs; this year, based on statistics of registered voters, that number will jump to around 65 percent, Selker said.

All the voting machines that will be used in this election have been tested in previous elections, such as in 2002, Selker said.

### New systems improve accuracy

How much do these new technologies improve the success rate at which votes are counted correctly, and how is this improvement measured?

One convenient metric is the residual vote, or the difference between the total number of ballots cast in an election and the number of votes counted in any particular race. This gives an indication of the number of ballots for a given race that were not counted.

In the 2000 election, the residual vote rate was about two percent, said Ansolabehere. The new voting technologies have the potential to "reduce the errors gigantically," Selker said. In the 2002 Georgia gubernatorial election, the use of DREs reduced the residual voting

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ANDREW YIP—THE TECH

Ben Kaufmann of the Colorado-based bluegrass quartet, Yonder Mountain String Band, performs at the Roxy on Oct. 21. Originally from Massachusetts, Ben wore a Red Sox jersey in celebration of the team's historic playoff victory the previous night.



Interviews with candidates for MA House of Reps.

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Don't forget to set your clocks back on Sunday!

### CAMPUS LIFE

Be a patriot and take a liberal attitude towards love.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Internet Giants File 7 Suits Aimed At Stopping Spam

By Laurie J. Flynn  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Four leading Internet service providers announced Thursday that they had filed a new round of lawsuits against senders of junk e-mail, or spam. The suits include the first filed by America Online against spammers who use instant messaging, a practice the online industry calls spimming.

AOL, Microsoft, Yahoo and EarthLink filed seven lawsuits in four states under the federal anti-spam law, which aims at stopping billions of unsolicited electronic messages, many with false headings that mislead consumers or seek to sell products that do not exist.

One of two lawsuits filed in Virginia on Wednesday by AOL focuses on 20 unnamed defendants it says sent junk e-mail via AOL's instant-messaging service and chat rooms. Curtis Lu, AOL's deputy general counsel, said that the industry's efforts to shut down spammers were driving them to new channels like instant messaging. "We want to nip this in the bud," Lu said in a conference call with reporters on Thursday.

## Bush Campaign Replaces Ad That Had Doctored Images

By Jim Rutenberg  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MIAMI

President Bush's campaign said Thursday that it was replacing one of its closing advertisements after acknowledging that it included an image that had been doctored to increase the number of soldiers appearing to listen to Bush.

The abrupt move came after a liberal Web log, DailyKos, featured a posting showing that the same faces appeared several times in several different places within the same crowd shot. Democrats pounced on the issue, saying that the advertisement underscored their contention that the Bush administration has repeatedly deceived the American people.

Bush campaign aides said they were unaware that the editors who worked on the advertisement had used a computer program to expand the size of the crowd after being asked to crop the shot for artistic reasons.

"The important thing in this is there was no intent to mislead people about the size of the audience," said Mark McKinnon, Bush's chief media adviser. "They were real soldiers, they were really there, there was no editorial intent here."

## FBI Investigating Contracts With Halliburton To Repair Iraq Oil

By Erik Eckholm  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating whether the Army's handling of a large Iraq contract with the Halliburton Co. violated procurement rules, according to lawyers for an Army official who made the charges of improprieties.

FBI agents have requested an interview with the official, Bunnatine H. Greenhouse, the chief of contracting with the Army Corps of Engineers, on her allegations regarding a 2003 contract with Halliburton to repair Iraqi oil fields, her lawyer, Michael D. Kohn, said in an interview Thursday.

Greenhouse, in an Oct. 21 letter to the acting Army secretary, charged that officials had shown favoritism toward Halliburton, the Houston-based conglomerate formerly led by Vice President Dick Cheney, in the awarding and oversight of the oil contract. She also said officials at the Army Corps of Engineers had tried to remove her as chief contract monitor after she persistently raised questions about Halliburton contracts.

# Iraqi Explosives Disappeared Since Fall of Saddam Hussein

By William J. Broad and David E. Sanger  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A video made by a television crew that was with U.S. troops when they opened bunkers at a sprawling Iraqi munitions complex south of Baghdad shows a huge supply of explosives still there nine days after the fall of Saddam Hussein, apparently including some sealed earlier by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The tape, broadcast Thursday by ABC News, appeared to confirm suspicions reported earlier this month to the IAEA by Iraqi officials, who said that hundreds of tons of high-grade explosives, powerful enough to bring down buildings or detonate nuclear weapons, had vanished from the Al-Qaqaa site after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

The question of whether the material was removed by Saddam's forces in the days before the invasion, or looted later because it was unguarded afterwards, has become a heated dispute in the U.S. presidential campaign, with Sen. John Kerry accusing President Bush of incompetence and Bush saying it is unclear when the material disappeared and rejecting

what he calls Kerry's "wild charges."

Weapons experts familiar with the work of the international inspectors in Iraq say the videotape appears identical to photographs that the inspectors took of the explosives, which were put under seal before the war. One frame shows what the experts say is an seal, with narrow wires that would have to be broken if anyone entered through the main door of the bunker.

The agency said that when it left Iraq in mid-March, only days before the war began, the only bunkers bearing its seals at the huge complex contained the explosive known as HMX, which the agency had monitored because it could be used in a nuclear weapons program. It is now clear that program had ground to a halt.

The *New York Times* and CBS reported on Monday that Iraqi officials had told the IAEA earlier this month that the explosives were missing — and that they were looted after April 9, 2003, the day Baghdad fell. Thursday evening, the Pentagon released a satellite image of the complex taken just two days after the inspectors left, showing a few trucks parked in

front of some bunkers. It is not clear they are the bunkers with the high explosives. "All we are trying to demonstrate is that after the IAEA left, and the place was under Saddam's control, there was activity," said Lawrence DiRita, the Pentagon spokesman. It is not clear from the photo what activity, if any, was under way.

On Thursday, a top Iraqi official said the interim government had spoken to witnesses who said the material was still at Al-Qaqaa at the time Baghdad fell.

The videotape broadcast Thursday, taken by KSTP-TV, an ABC affiliate in Minneapolis-St. Paul, shows troops breaking into a bunker and opening boxes and examining barrels. Many of the containers are marked "explosive." One box is marked "Al-Qaqaa State Establishment," apparently a shipping label from a manufacturer.

The ABC crew said the video was taken on April 18. The timing is critical to the debate under way in the presidential campaign. By the Pentagon's own account, units of the 101st Airborne Division were in the area of Al-Qaqaa for what DiRita said was "two to three weeks," starting April 10.

# Palestinian Politics Uncertain As Arafat Seeks Medical Care

By Greg Myre and Steven Erlanger  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, will be flown to Paris and hospitalized for the mysterious two-week-old ailment that has seriously weakened him, Palestinian officials said Thursday evening, raising concerns that Palestinian politics could be plunged into turmoil.

Arafat, who at 75 remains the symbol of the Palestinian people and their long fight for a state, is to fly by helicopter on Friday morning to Amman, Jordan, and then by plane to Paris, said Munib al-Masri, a Palestinian businessman close to Arafat. The French government said it would provide the plane.

The exact nature of Arafat's illness is unclear. He has grown increasingly frail, is unable to keep food down and is suffering from persistent vomiting and diarrhea uncontrolled by medication, aides say. In addition, he has a large, painful gallstone, according to some associates.

Arafat's abruptly declining health raised immediate questions about a successor and the stability of the West Bank and Gaza, since he controls the various Palestinian security services.

In recent years, Arafat has been sharply criticized by a younger generation of Palestinians for his refusal to share power, groom a successor or promote government institutions. Similar but more gentle criticism has come from his two prime

ministers, Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, who quit after only a few months last year, and the current office holder, Ahmed Qureia. Both men are considered likely successors to Arafat.

But so long as Arafat lives, it is highly unlikely that there will be a visible succession struggle, for fear of offending most Palestinians. Nonetheless, Arafat's absence from the West Bank is bound to lead to instability, especially if his absence is prolonged.

That is one reason why Arafat has been reluctant to seek medical help elsewhere, Palestinian officials say. He has also been concerned that the Israeli government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon might not allow him to return.

# WEATHER

## A Frightening Forecast

By David Flagg  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Celebrating Halloween this weekend? For revelers, the weather Sunday should cooperate in both Witchita, KS (partly cloudy, 70°F (21°C)) and Erie, PA (partly cloudy, 57°F (14°C)). Look for a chance of rain or snow showers in Colorado at Spook City (45°F (7°C)) and Scare Mountain (40°F (5°C)). Beware of errant ghouls escaping Mummy Island, AK (mostly sunny, 32°F (0°C)) and washing ashore at Ghost Creek, FL (partly cloudy, 88°F (31°C)), or Pirate Cove, SC (partly cloudy, 77°F (25°C)). Feeling empty inside? Try Skeleton Cave, OR (partly cloudy, 48°F (9°C)). If it's candy you're after, a sure bet would be Candy Town, OH (partly cloudy, 65°F (18°C)). Just steer clear of Trickem, GA (mostly cloudy, 78°F (26°C)) in favor of Treat, LA (chance of showers, 80°F (27°C)). Finally, back at our very own Halloween Mecca in Salem, MA, look for fair conditions and seasonally mild weather for trick-or-treating. Happy Halloween!

### Extended Forecast:

**Today:** Partly cloudy, High near 60°F (15°C).

**Tonight:** Increasing clouds, showers possible by morning, Low near 48°F (9°C).

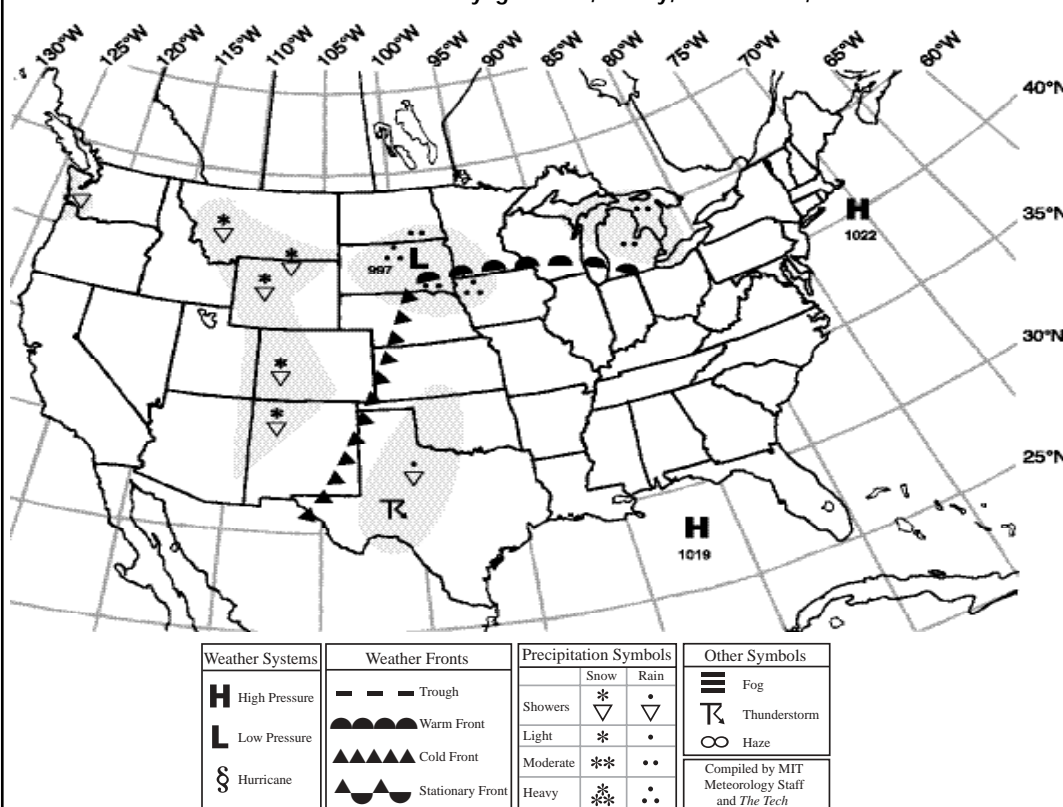
**Tomorrow:** Showers likely, possibly heavy in the late morning and afternoon, High near 65°F (18°C).

**Tomorrow night:** Showers diminishing, cloudy late, low near 49°F (14°C).

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy, high near 64°F (18°C).

**Monday:** Partly cloudy, high near 65°F (18°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, October 29, 2004



# Increased Early Voting Turnout Changes Campaign Strategies

By Rick Lyman and Jim Yardley  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADISON, WIS.

State election officials around the country said on Thursday that there had been a surge in early voting this year, with people lining up in numbers so large that some analysts predict that one-fifth of presidential ballots will be cast before Nov. 2.

Both the Kerry and Bush campaigns disagree about which side this early voting would help the most. But already, this trend is dramatically altering the home-stretch calculus of campaign strategists, affecting where candidates are sent and money is spent in the final days. And it has turned the get-out-the-vote drives that are usually reserved for the final hours of the campaign into a half-month marathon.

Here in Madison on Thursday, more than 80,000 people jammed onto a sloping boulevard leading up to the State Capitol to hear Sen. John Kerry and Bruce Springsteen

urge them to vote Democratic and, if possible, to do so early. Fresh from the rally, thousands in the crowd were directed to walk six blocks to the city-county building to cast their votes, marching behind Kerry volunteers toting "Follow Me" banners.

Early voting is taking place throughout Florida for the first time in a presidential election, and some people have waited hours in line at the limited polling sites out of concern that this Election Day will prove as chaotic as the one four years ago.

Alicia Balseiro, 70, an ardent Bush supporter in Miami, said on Thursday that she had come out to vote early for a key reason. "I don't know if I'll die tomorrow," she said.

Never before have so many voters gone to the polls so early. In 2000, 13 states offered early balloting. This year, it is 23. In addition, laws governing absentee voting have become less stringent in many states, allowing people to obtain absentee ballots almost uncondition-

ally and often, as in Wisconsin, cast them on the spot. This amounts to a form of early voting and brings the national total to 31 states.

"What it means, basically, is that Election Day is not one day any longer," said Chris Lato, a spokesman for Wisconsin Republicans. "It lasts for several weeks leading up to the election."

Joseph Agostini, Republican Party spokesman in Florida, said that the party has pushed early voting hard this year and that the president has encouraged supporters to vote early "on every visit that he's made to the state to Florida."

Matthew Corrigan, an associate professor of political science at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, predicted that 20 percent of the vote would be cast either in early voting or by absentee ballot, and it would aid the Kerry effort. "Early voting helps Democrats, because if you're trying to get a bunch of new voters out, it's easier to get them out over two weeks, rather than in one day," Corrigan said.

# Election Workers in Afghanistan Abducted by Taliban-linked Group

By Carlotta Gall  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Gunmen abducted three foreign election workers in broad daylight Thursday in a busy street in the capital.

It was the first such kidnapping of foreigners in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban three years ago and raised fears that militant groups in Afghanistan may be borrowing a favored tactic of insurgents in Iraq.

A group linked to the Taliban, calling itself Jaish-e-Muslimeen, or Army of Muslims, claimed responsibility for kidnapping the foreigners in telephone calls to bureaus of the Reuters news agency and Al-Jazeera television network in neighboring Pakistan. The caller, who described himself as a commander named Mullah Ishaq Manzoor, said his forces had carried out the abduction.

"The three foreigners have been kidnapped by us," he told Reuters by satellite telephone. "We are taking them to some safe place outside Kabul." Al-Jazeera quoted him as saying the group's council was meeting to decide the fate of the hostages.

As of late Thursday, no conditions had been set for the captives' release.

Afghan police said they had tracked the gunmen's black Toyota SUV to an area west of Kabul and by afternoon Thursday had surrounded an area and begun a search. NATO helicopters circled over the city dropping anti-rocket flares and armored vehicles moved into positions at street corners.

"It is possible they are armed thieves, and it is possible they are terrorists," said Lutfullah Mashal, an Interior Ministry spokesman. "The police are taking firm control of an area west of Kabul and we hope to arrest them as soon as possible and release those abducted."

The three foreigners — a Filipino man, a Kosovo Albanian woman, and a woman from Northern Ireland — were all working for the joint U.N. and Afghan election agency, the Joint Election Management Board, which organized Afghanistan's first presidential elections on Oct. 9.

The attack came just as the board announced that it had finished the two-week counting process and that some 100,000 outstanding ballots, still under investigation for fraud, would not change the overall result. President Hamid Karzai holds a commanding lead of 55.4 percent, some 39 percentage points over his

nearest rival, former Education Minister Muhammad Yunus Qanooni. The election occurred under heavy security and with relatively little violence, although attacks by suspected Taliban, in particular roadside explosions, have flared since.

The three election workers were seized from their car at gunpoint just before 1 p.m. close to the compound where they worked in western Kabul. Three or four gunmen, armed with assault rifles, overtook their car and forced it to a stop, said a truck driver, Ruhullah, 29, who was unloading cement by the side of the road and witnessed the kidnapping.

"They punched the driver twice, and then pulled the women out, throwing them over their shoulders and carrying them to their own car," he said. The third foreigner, a man, struggled as he taken by the gunmen to the car, he said. Then they took off into the maze of busy streets, their vehicle with its blackened windows like so many government vehicles, making a swift getaway.

"They escaped toward the west side of Kabul, towards Araghandeh and Paghman, then the car disappeared into the villages west of Kabul," the spokesman, Mashal said.

# China Central Bank Raises Interest Rate to Cool Economy and Inflation

By Keith Bradsher  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

China's central bank raised official borrowing costs for the first time in nine years Thursday night, a step aimed at slowing breakneck economic growth and inflation but one that could risk social unrest if heavily indebted state companies respond by laying off more workers.

Beijing also removed the ceiling on what banks could charge for loans, a measure that paradoxically could make more loans available to risky private enterprises and ultimately enhance China's long-term growth prospects and give its economy much greater stability.

The two moves shift China further toward a Western-style financial system in which markets determine the allocation of credit, not government officials.

The interest rate move, the first of what could be a series of increases, also may damp demand for products offered by the United States

and other countries rushing to take advantage of the Chinese market. But the effect on American consumers is likely to be quite small, as Chinese companies are expected to take whatever steps are needed to keep prices low and maintain their exports.

For Beijing, the interest rate increase is a historic embrace of free-market tools of economic management despite possible internal political repercussions, said Tao Dong, the China economist at Credit Suisse First Boston's office here.

"This probably will anger a lot of people, but I give the government high marks," he said. Indebted property developers and laid-off workers are likely to rank among the angriest.

By seeking to control inflation with higher interest rates, Beijing may limit some profit opportunities for a long list of companies and countries involved in the roaring Chinese market — from luxury automakers in Europe, to iron ore

producers in Brazil and Australia, to oil exporters in the Middle East.

Higher interest rates could also cause some hiccups for American companies with large beachheads in China, like General Motors.

Indeed, prices of oil, copper, cotton and other commodities declined Thursday, underscoring concerns among investors that demand is easing in China for many raw goods used in manufacturing everything from clothes to washing machines.

After concluding last spring that the economy was expanding at an unsustainable pace and fueling inflation, Chinese leaders initially chose mostly administrative methods to try to limit excessive growth, like the denial of zoning and environmental impact approvals for construction projects.

But these methods have failed to rein in rising prices. Consumer goods, on average, cost 5.2 percent more last month than a year earlier despite price controls on many products.

# Survey Finds Increase In Iraqi Civilian Deaths

By Bryan Bender and Scott Allen

THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON

The first nationwide survey of Iraqi deaths since the US-led invasion concludes that about 100,000 people have died as a result of the war, including many women and children killed in coalition airstrikes.

The study last month by researchers at Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, and Al-Mustansiriya University in Baghdad, based on interviews with about 800 randomly selected Iraqi households, derived an estimated Iraqi death toll at least three times higher than previous estimates based on media reports. The study found that the risk of death in the 18 months since the war began was 1(DD) to 2(DD) times higher than in the 14-month period before the war, and the risk of a violent death was 58 times higher.

"Making conservative assumptions, we think that about 100,000 excess deaths, or more, have happened since the 2003 invasion of Iraq," the medical team concluded. "Violence accounted for most of the excess deaths and airstrikes from coalition forces accounted for most violent deaths . . . the majority being violent death among women and children relating to military activity."

The authors cautioned that the study had built-in limitations: It sampled only a relatively small number of households, and team members were prevented from visiting some areas of the country due to the continuing violence.

# Radar Reveals Diverse Surface On Saturn's Largest Moon

By John Noble Wilford

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PASADENA, CALIF.

The Cassini spacecraft's first radar images of Saturn's largest moon, Titan, have revealed a diverse frozen landscape of bright streaks that may be ice ridges or wind-driven deposits, and dark regions that are probably smooth basins filled with dirty ice — or, in some places, lakes of exotic liquid, perhaps methane.

If they did not dispel the mystery of Titan, the black-and-white radar images gave scientists tantalizing clues to challenge or revise some hypotheses about the nature of the Titanian surface, long hidden beneath the perpetual smog of a dense atmosphere. It is the only moon in the solar system with a substantial atmosphere and evidence of a complex organic, or carbon-based, chemistry that could yield insights into processes that led to life on the early Earth.

In its close encounter with Titan on Tuesday, the Cassini spacecraft penetrated the opaque atmosphere with cameras, infrared sensors, and a radar system designed to map hidden landscapes. The first processed radar images were made public on Thursday by scientists here at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. They appeared to show more surface features than could be seen in the regular photographs, released soon after the flyby.

At a news conference, Dr. Charles Elachi, director of the laboratory, who is also leader of the radar investigation, said that the radar survey covered a strip 75 miles wide and 1,200 miles long, representing about 1 percent of the planet-size moon's surface. Bright regions in the images represented rough terrain, and darker areas were interpreted as smooth, flat surfaces.

# GM Plans 10,000 Temporary Layoffs

By Danny Hakim

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT

General Motors said Thursday that it would temporarily lay off more than 10,000 workers for one to four weeks early next year at five plants that mostly produce sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks.

The layoffs, at plants in Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin, come on the heels of GM's second quarterly loss in North American automotive operations in a decade, which it reported in its third-quarter earnings results earlier this month.

The moves, which were reported by The Detroit Free Press on Thursday, are a further sign that the sales of the largest SUVs are under pressure amid unusually high gas prices — currently averaging more than \$2 a gallon, according to the Energy Information Administration.

GM, the world's largest automaker, also has a lineup of large SUVs and pickup trucks that is several years old and is facing a lot of new competition from foreign automakers.

Though sales for many SUV models have held up well this year, GM is generally spending more on rebates and other incentives per vehicle than any other company, according to Edmunds.com, which tracks auto sales and marketing data. And for the last six months, no market segment has had higher levels of incentives than large SUVs, according to Edmunds.

# 4 Executed in Haiti Slum; Police Accused of Killings by Witnesses

By Michael Kamber

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Four young men were executed Thursday in a Port-au-Prince neighborhood by men witnesses identified as police officers. The killings took place in a busy intersection of Bel Air, an area that has been a flashpoint of violence in recent weeks.

"Six police cars came up here with about 15 officers," said Jean Yves, one of the witnesses. "They took the men out of the cars, put them on the ground and shot them in the head."

Other residents confirmed Yves' account as bursts of automatic weapons fire sounded nearby, evidence of continued fighting between the police and loyalists of the deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was forced to step down in February and is now in exile in South Africa.

Police officials said Thursday afternoon that they had not heard about the killings.



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# OPINION

## Strategy Fails Real Life

Four years ago, George W. Bush eked his way into the Oval Office, having earned not so much the mandate of the American people as that of the Supreme Court. While many speculated that the less than polished son of privilege would respond to the tight 2000 election by forging a relatively moderate administration, Bush

### Editorial

has long since shattered such notions. Instead, his term has been characterized by extreme policies and decisions, from waging a preemptive war to spending with an unchecked liberality not seen in recent American history. Add to the mix the president's rigid and unabashed social conservatism, and it is little surprise that despite entering the presidency claiming to be a uniter, Bush has established himself as the ultimate polarizer, enhancing and cementing divisions within our nation. As a result, the current battle between Bush and Senator John Kerry has become as much a referendum on the president's tenure in office as it is a simple evaluation of the two candidates.

The September 11 attacks had an unintended side effect of galvanizing the American public in boisterous and widespread support for the president and his policies. In the time since, he has squandered that support, his Gallup approval rating plummeting from a high of 90 percent following the attacks to a current level of about 50 percent. The war in Iraq, with its now notoriously tenuous justifications, has morphed into a modern Vietnam, continuing to cost lives and dollars at an alarming rate while alienating the United States from traditional allies and potentially spawning the hatred needed to breed a new generation of terrorists. Bush's arrogant disregard for building international support "Poland notwithstanding" has created a situation in which over three-quarters of coalition forces are American men and women who should either be safe at home or fighting more useful battles such as the war against terror and Osama bin Laden.

Closer to home, government spending policies have been perplexing. While corporations and the rich have benefited from significant tax breaks, the Bush administration has spent money at an alarming rate, plunging the country into a massive national debt that has received surprisingly little attention during this campaign. Bush should not be held solely responsible for the stumbling and bumbling economy that has marked the bulk of his time in Washington, but he should be accountable for reckless spending policies. To make matters worse, that excessive spending has not actually improved the daily lives of Americans, with schools and social programs regressing as defense and homeland security envelop funds, often to serve ends of questionable effective-

## Facing the Problems of the New Century

By Ken Nesmith and Beckett W. Sterner

## DISSENTING

Just past the turn of the century, America faces a definitive moment, at home and abroad. The candidates represent very different pathways. In both international and domestic affairs, John Kerry has failed to

### Dissent

learn from the last century and offers a mishmash of regressive policies. George Bush offers the country a clear way forward in the right direction.

The end of the Cold War is a relatively recent event, and its aftermath defines international relations today. In the wake of bipolarity, we see a fluctuating power dynamic that will settle on some combination of American hegemony, multipolarity among a motley collection of competing, unaligned powers from North Korea to China to Iran, and apolarity, featuring an ever more chaotic world. In the face of varied global threats, America must let go of the ever less relevant structures of alliance that defined the cold war, and now form coalitions built on common purpose and common values to face shared threats and problems. This, in fact, is George Bush's approach. This "go-it-alone" administration is working with over 60 nations on combating weapons of mass destruction proliferation worldwide, and has had success doing so, interrupting the A.Q. Khan network, convincing Libya to voluntarily disarm, and otherwise creating a global environment hostile to proliferation of rogue weapons. On North Korea, the administration has found the right approach, adapting six-party talks to address a terrible problem created by the Clinton administration. On Iran, the administration continues to build a broad coalition to address another rising threat. In Afghanistan, an international collection of troops is now stationed in the country, with substantial European contribution. Bush opponents can think of no greater crime than leaving France and Germany behind in Iraq, yet these countries did not share common cause in disarming Saddam; in fact, it has since come to light that they had substantial financial interest in keeping him in power. Without common cause, they were not part of the relevant coalition.

The Kerry camp believes that some countries matter much more than others, and particularly, that France and Germany comprise the rest of the international world. Kerry's right that alliances matter. His problem is that he cannot conceive of any alliance structure other than a cold war one. It's an understandable flaw, but not an acceptable one. More generally, his dovish, "one more U.N. resolution" approach to

ness.

Through it all, the greatest flaw with Bush may be his unwillingness to reflect on the successes and failures of his term. While he entered the White House promising increased government accountability, he was rendered all but speechless during the second presidential debate when asked to name three mistakes he's made over the last four years. And there have been far more than three. Bush may grin and chuckle when he refers to his opponent as a flip-flopper, but it's his "stubborn obstinacy" that continues to drive America into a deeper and deeper rut.

John Kerry, though far from perfect, possesses the type of vision needed to put the United States back on the right track. His years of service in the Senate endow him with an extensive understanding of foreign and domestic affairs that dwarfs the president's, and he will put that understanding to good use. While Bush continues to throw more of the same at the situation in Iraq, Kerry understands the fundamental importance of building alliances from his years on the Foreign Relations Committee. He shares Bush's belief that stabilizing Iraq should remain a key concern of the United States, but he will make a more concerted and determined effort to convince other nations to help bear the associated burdens.

Kerry also has a carefully designed plan for revitalizing the American economy. Primarily by repealing tax cuts for the wealthy and phasing out numerous corporate loopholes, he will raise money without placing any additional financial burden on the vast majority of Americans. With these funds, Kerry will be able to exercise the type of fiscal responsibility that Bush has merely promised but failed to deliver, all while increasing support of key domestic programs. Education, health care, and environmental protection are just a few areas that would stand to reap the benefits of a Kerry presidency.

John Kerry will set the stage for a strong future for our generation as we embark upon the world. As college and graduate students, we have an obligation to show these two men, and every candidate that may follow, that young Americans should be listened to and can have a significant impact on the election. The Tech encourages all students to go out and vote on Tuesday, whether or not you support John Kerry and whether or not you vote in a swing state — the larger the percentage of young Americans who vote this year will influence the attention that is paid in future years to those in our generation. In a time when the political awareness of students is rapidly growing, we must put our voices to good use by voting this Tuesday. The right choice for that vote is John Kerry.

international relations will not serve us well in the face of varied, rising threats worldwide. Many observe some of the international and domestic turbulence of the last four years, the gifts of history and an inherited recession respectively, and inappropriately blame Bush for each. In fact, his stance is the best for a world with an unclear future.

Our international stance must, of course, be buttressed by preeminent economic and domestic strength. Here, the difference between the candidates could not be starker. Two decades ago, Ronald Reagan shifted this country away from an encroaching socialism that held us in a stagnant malaise. We've seen the tremendous results of his reforms in two decades of growth. In a second term, George Bush will face down threats to our economic solvency, and should he succeed, we will appreciate the benefits for decades. He would recraft social security into an honest retirement system. John Kerry would expand our current pyramid scheme, a scheme with no future. Bush would introduce a health insurance infrastructure resembling what health economists call an "ideal system;" Kerry would do his best to nationalize health care. Democrats with the gall to object to increased government spending and lower taxes (this, of course, is precisely the Keynesian, liberal prescription for economic health), as well as fiscal conservatives who can object without hypocrisy to Bush's spending splurges can take comfort here: health care and retirement comprise, by far, the most serious threats to our nation's long term fiscal solvency. Bush would address the problems. Kerry wouldn't.

Bush does inspire a strong hatred in his opponents, and some criticism of him is deserved. His Christianity sometimes shines forth a bit too brightly, and his attempts to rewrite the law of the land according to the Bible are worse than misguided; they're unacceptable. The benefits of marriage should not depend on the blessings of religion, and the Constitution should do nothing but affirm as much. We're bothered by the modus operandi of secrecy and control within administration ranks. It's a problem, and it appears to have led to problems in the real world, especially Iraq. We don't like his Texas swagger, or his aversion to even the semblance of proper English. We don't like his resistance to sound science, or his reluctance to read books and newspapers.

We wouldn't want to have a beer with him, or a discussion over a glass of merlot. But we're not choosing a drinking buddy, or a cognoscente comrade. We're choosing a President. No President is perfect. But despite his problems of social policy and style, George Bush offers an obviously better choice for America in this century.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

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# World Series 2004: My Worst Nightmare

Spencer L. Lewis

Writing on Wednesday night, I can say my worst nightmare has finally happened — the 2004 World Series is between the Boston Red Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals. I saw this coming two months ago, and I'm still kicking myself for not putting money on it. By now, you have probably guessed — I'm a St. Louis native who lives in Boston.

Some may not understand my confusion. The few St. Louis people I know here consider it akin to blasphemy that I would ever even consider rooting for the Red Sox during the series. Meanwhile, my Boston friends insist that I have been rooting for the Sox for so long and have felt so much frustration that I must want the Red Sox to finally win it all (not to mention wanting to see the whole city go insane for a few days).

These sorts of problems almost never happen. In the eleven years I've been in Boston, the Cards and the Sox have only played one interleague series against each other. I was perfectly happy to root for both teams — one National League, the other American League — with the knowledge that the odds were stacked against them playing each other outside of a short interleague series. Well, Ortiz hit that idea out of the park, along with a few of those Yankee pitches. I'm in the middle of my all-time sports worst case scenario. I thought it was bad when the Rams played the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXVI! *That was nothing!* That was one day, one single day of tension and then a week of the Rams jokes — nothing compared to this insanity. I know that everyone in Boston was half asleep during the entire ALCS because of those late night marathon games. Well Bostonians, you think you had it bad? I was watching the NLCS at the same time! I'll need a trip to the Caribbean after this is finished! I'm emotionally drained and we are only on Game 2. I don't know if I will make it.

Anyone who has set foot in either city knows baseball is and will always be *number one* (I'm always joking that St. Louis would happily sacrifice a Ram for a World Series

title). I grew up with pennants of the 1982 Cardinals and Lou Brock hanging on my wall. I can't count the number of times me and my Grandpa listened to Jack Buck's distinctive play-by-play over the radio. I can close my eyes and remember my visits to Busch stadium — that huge statue of "Stan the Man" out front, Ozzie Smith doing a back flip, Mark McGwire trying for number 61 (how Dad got those tickets I don't even want to know). I can't remember ever not owning a Cardinals baseball cap, and I certainly never turned down a chance to see a game. I've bragged that pitchers don't stand a chance against the Cardinal's rotation. I've taken pride in every amazing Rolen play and sat with anticipation whenever Pujols went to bat. I even said a few not so nice things about Tavarez and that left-hand breaking temper tantrum of his.

Now, no one needs to be told that Boston is all about the Sox. For goodness sakes, Brigham's Ice Cream came out with a "Reverse the Curse" ice cream flavor to further support the Red Sox. I have been in this town since 1993, and I have seen a lot (although those college years are still a bit blurry). I've seen Roger Clemens and Nomar leave town, Pedro's dominance, and the antics of Manny Ramirez. Of course, I've also been there for the frustration — every last heart breaking moment (Pedro, ALCS, Yankees, Game 7, 2003 — enough said). I've jumped at every Ortiz homerun, amazed at Schilling's perseverance, and nearly went ballistic when it looked like A-Rod was going to get away with knocking the ball out of Arroyo's hand. I've even caught myself singing "Yankees Suck." For the past eleven years, I've followed the Red Sox with that wish of World Series fame that fuels the Red Sox Nation.

So, what do I do? I can't be neutral; that's not in my nature and would be cheating both teams. One of my friends, another Boston transplant, said that I can't choose between my

children. Besides, the Sox have been waiting for this for almost an entire century. This stuck with me. Many do not realize this, but St. Louis has nine World Series titles — second most in the major leagues (guess which evil empire has the most). I remember the day that I realized that in the time since Boston won the World Series in 1918, St. Louis had won all nine of its titles. It was an awe-inspiring thought. This thought almost made me root for Schilling, Johnny, Pedro, Wakefield, Lowe, Ortiz, and the rest of those loveable idiots. However, I found that I just could not do it. I just can not wish for the Red Birds to loose — even if it does break the curse. It would be like wishing for Big Bird to get run over by a car. I grew up rooting for the Cardinals, and I can not wish anything

*I thought it was bad when the Rams played the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXVI! That was nothing!*

bad to happen to them. The Cards won my heart before I knew it was up for grabs. I was born a Cardinal, and will always be true to my Cardinals — even if I have to leave the Sox for a time.

So, where does this leave me with Red Sox Nation? Thankfully, Boston has understood my pain and my final decision; after all, it's not like I am rooting for the Yankees. The Cardinals are respected here, and I get the sense (a lot like the Super Bowl) that St. Louis is seen as a worthy adversary. Maybe everyone is a little happier since the Yankees got spanked, or maybe it is because the Sox are up three games to none? In all honesty, I don't care. I'm St. Louis-born and raised and proud of it. I'll wear my Cardinals cap with pride and tell whoever wants to know why this is the Cards' year. However, Lord help, if the Cards go down, I'll be the first to raise my glass to Red Sox Nation and finally putting the Bambino to rest. After all, while my heart belongs to the Cardinals (they don't call them the Cardiac Cards for nothing), the Red Sox have a pretty big space in there too.

Spencer L. Lewis is a graduate student at MIT.

# Why I Am a Red Sox Fan

Caitlin Murray

I found the letter to the editor in Tuesday's [Oct. 26] *Tech* titled "Why I Am Not A Red Sox Fan" narrow-minded and a bit insulting. I have been a Red Sox fan since I was nine years old and my father promised to take me to a game if I could memorize the roster. Everyone in my family is a Red Sox fan, from my 87-year-old grandfather to my 14-year-old sister and six-year-old brother. We know our favorite players, the stats of the players, the stats of the players they play against, and all the rules of the game. Not one of us has ever chanted "Yankees Suck," "Babies suck," or "Jeter swallows," and we have certainly never rioted.

One of the primary arguments in that letter was that a Google search of "Yankees riot mob" turns up only stories of Boston riots. Of course that's true. No one riots because they always win. That is far too narrow a search. Instead, let's think about other sports riots. There were riots in Denver when the Avalanche won the Stanley Cup. University of Maryland, University of Minnesota, Florida State, University of Connecticut, Michigan State, and Indiana University, just to name a few, have all experienced post-victory mob violence in the past few years. Following the Lakers' victory over the Pacers in 2000, the riots included looting and attacks on police officers. Let's not forget the police in riot gear dispatched on the first and third base lines of Yankee Stadium after Yankees fans started throwing trash at the Red Sox players and the umpires. And of course, who could forget the post-soccer match mobs that terrorize Europe. Tastelessness and violence are unique to neither Boston nor Red Sox fans.

Saying that you cannot be a Red Sox fan because of the riots in Kenmore Square is like saying you can't be a Muslim because of suicide bombers, or a Christian because of the IRA or televangelism. And you couldn't support any beloved sports team that has ever come from behind to win against all odds, because there are inevitably riots surrounding those.

I am proud of my team. I think Curt Schilling and David Ortiz are exemplary role models and modern day heroes for their faith, courage, and dedication to their communities. Bronson Arroyo's humility and Jason Varitek's intelligence and strength are admirable. Ellis Burks' ability to lead and unify his team from the bench is a quality rarely seen. The Red Sox are an incredible team, not only for their athletic ability, but for their teamwork, dedication, and love of each other and their community. And that is why I will always be a Red Sox fan.

## Write to

[letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu)



## Letters To The Editor

### Practical Use For New Space

Here's a suggestion for the old Cashier's Office ["Cashier's Office to Become Space for Students," Oct. 22]: install about a dozen Athena machines to make up for all the inane modifications to the building 56 and Student Center clusters.

In an effort to "enhance" those clusters, rows of computers were removed to make way for sophisticated technological junk — projectors, white-boards, fancy-chairs — which no one uses. They may impress parents or donors, but they decrease cluster capacity and inconvenience students. Ripping out the modifications and returning the clusters to full capacity is probably too much to hope for. But, now that we are presented with another opportunity for designing "student space";

let's aim for the practical over the aesthetic.  
Ian Jacobi '06

### Plan for Safety Questionable

This letter concerns a recent *Tech* article entitled "Students Advised to Avoid Sox Riots" [Oct. 26] I wanted to address two points:

1) Victoria Snelgrove, an Emerson College student, was innocently standing by as Boston Police opened fire on the crowd. In contrast to coverage on Fox News, accounts by witnesses posted on Boston Indy Media have indicated that the crowd was not "rioting." Her tragic death is being publicized as an "accident" when she was in fact murdered, and the perpetrator of the murder is known — the Boston Police.

2) I am so touched to hear that the MIT administration is concerned with student safe-

ty and have offered incentives for students to stay on campus. Nonetheless, I think it is misguided for campus administrators to assume that keeping students on campus would keep them safe. The MIT Police, which has also demonstrated as yet unchecked police excesses against non-violent leafletters such as myself, still freely roam the campus.

In fact, they are deputized, carry lethal weapons, have jurisdiction all over the county, and are not answerable to any board of review composed of persons under their jurisdiction.

Your recent article indicated that MIT Police Chief DiFava is involved with these incentives to keep students "safe" and that one MIT police lieutenant is in touch with the Boston Police, the party guilty of the murder. I'm puzzled as to what that has to do with ensuring student safety.

I'm also puzzled by the administration's sudden show of concern for student safety.

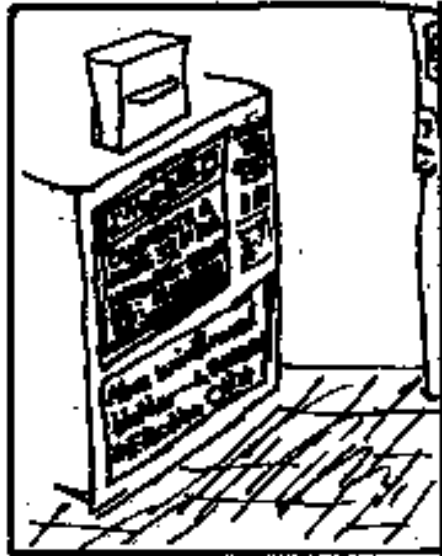
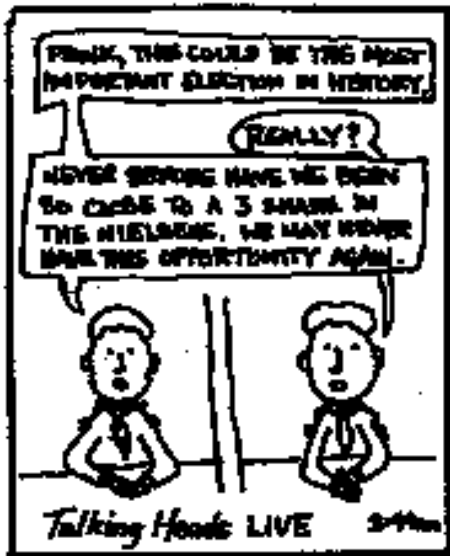
Rather than responding to concerns from community members about the MIT police's excesses, President Vest has loosed a rabid pack of harassing, threatening Pinkerton Detectives (essentially, police for hire) on anyone who writes to him and is silly enough to have a problem with out-of-control gun-toting police officers roaming the campus and physically harassing women. (This concerns the repeated harassment of Dr. Aimee Smith PhD '02.)

It's nice of campus administrators to take measures to try to keep students safe, but if they want to prevent a murder similar to that of Snelgrove's from happening on our campus, they must take an honest look at the MIT campus police. Having seen them in action several times, I'm extremely disturbed at the prospect of more police brutality on our campus.

Suzanne Nguyen G

## Filler Space ELECTIONS: THE CASE FOR ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

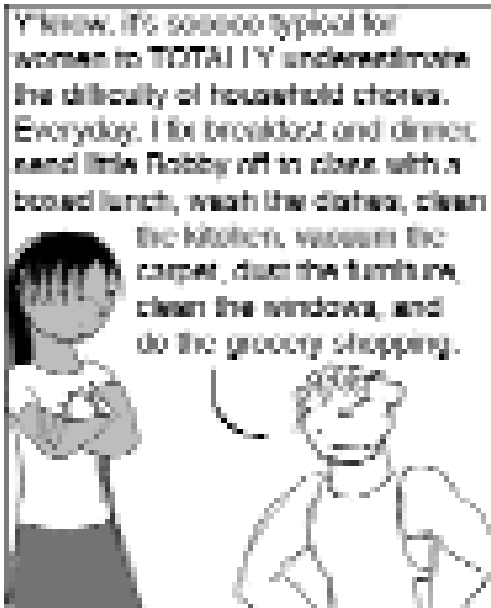
by Jason Burns



## Trio

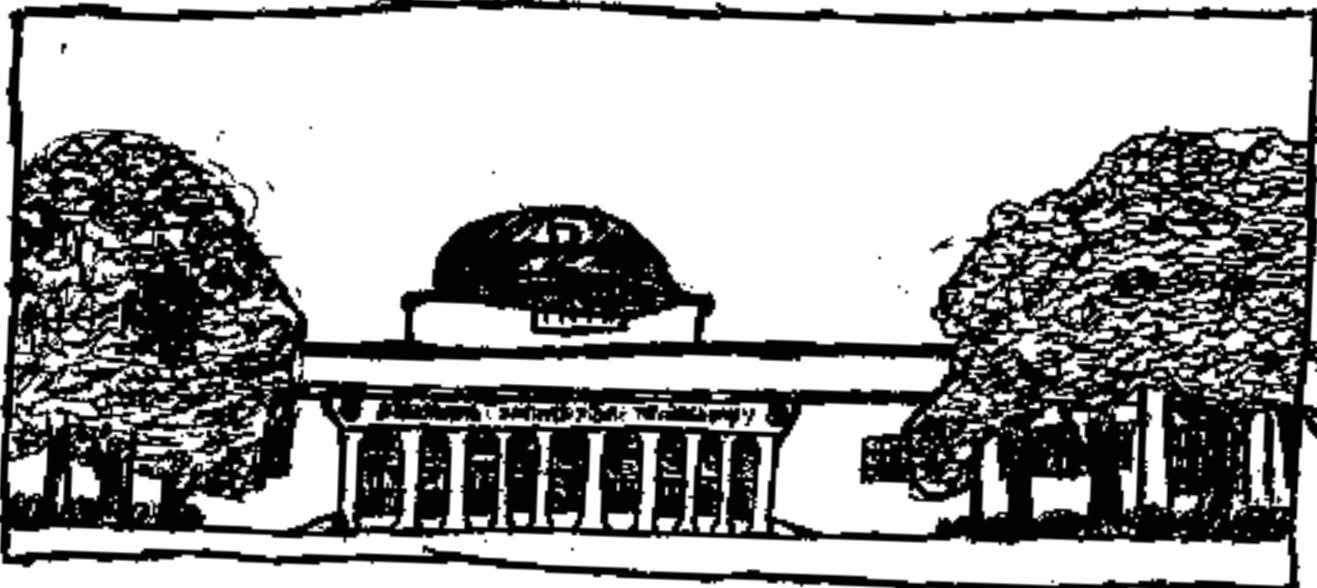
Character profiles and comic archives. ALUMINATEDUPWINDIE

by Emezie Okorafor



There's Always This Year

by Brian Loux

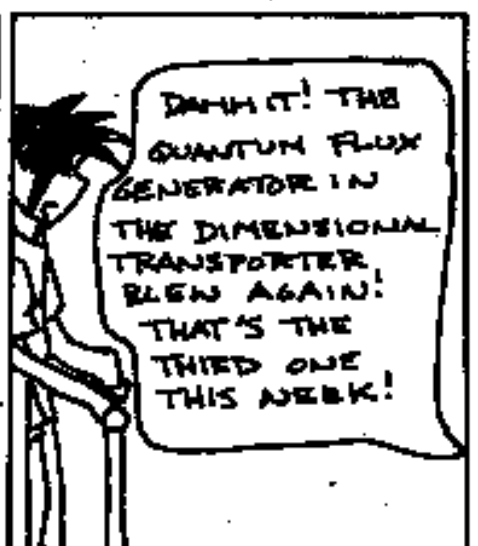
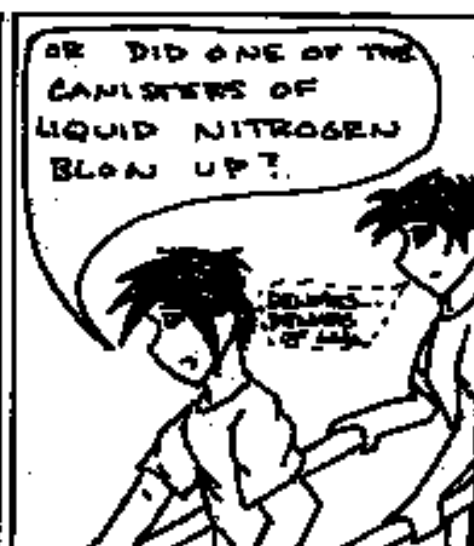


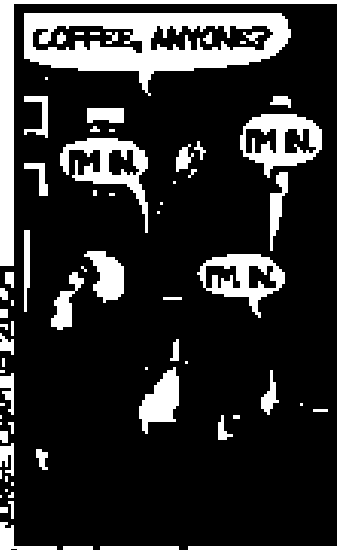
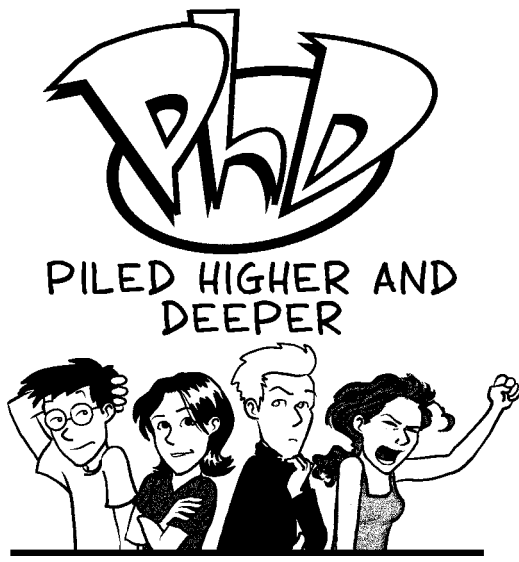
The Idiots shall be crowned king and the curse shall have no dominion

- Red Sox 3:1

## Deviants from the Norm

by A.K. Turza





www.phdcomics.com

# FoxTrot by Bill Amend

# Dilbert® by Scott Adams

## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 17

**Think you're funny?**  
**Prove it!**  
*join@the-tech.mit.edu*

# CAMPUS LIFE

## How To Eat Like an Asian Pork Sung

By Mark Liao

CAMPUS LIFE COLUMNIST

Every time I sit down to start yet another article, I go into this John Dorian-esque mode where I hear my own voice in my head ranting on about this or that, minus the random midget or stuffed squirrel army. All I need to do now is to call some guy "Gladys," and I could be a one man Scrubs episode.

So after my weekly episode of watching what has now become an attempt to fill the dark void left behind by "Friends," I decided to wander over to see what the freshmen were doing. It's kind of weird how they cluster together like that gaggle of vicious geese underneath the BU Bridge. They're just as loud, just as confrontational, and well, let's face it they smell just as much. On the other hand, freshmen are an invaluable part of MIT. I mean without them, how would I ever gain fresh insight into what is supposedly "weird" about being an Asian person? Back to my story.

So it's roughly two in the morning and the '08's are as wired as ever. For some reason they love the whole, "Let's sing late 1990's love ballads at the top of our lungs in between cussing at physics problems" thing. You just kind of sit there, mesmerized, stuck between fear and awe, hoping the moment will pass but secretly singing along in your head. Luckily for me, after about the fourth obscure Edwin McCain song, one of them declares she's hungry. Following a piggy back stampede back to my room, they start their frenzied digging through my belongings.

Eventually one of them stumbles upon a

half gallon sized container underneath my bed. She lifts it up quizzically and stares into the brown contents of the clear plastic box. She then finds the label and in a half disgusted, half inquisitive tone reads aloud, "Pork Sung — cooked dry shredded pork."

Honestly, how do I explain what the hell this stuff is?! If I was a white person, I'd be just as scared.

I mean it honestly looks like busted up 1970's shag carpet. When you take a big whiff of the stuff, you smell meat, but what's meat doing underneath your bed? As that weird smelly kid growing up in elementary school, having pork sung with mayonnaise atop a greasy roll from the Asian bakery wasn't so bad. I'd just explain it as ground up beef jerky. Somehow in the land of dodge ball and hair pulling, that worked.

But now we're older and more mature. I shouldn't be embarrassed about having processed meat as one of my favorite foods in my room.

Pork sung or "tso song" is probably the second most popular topping for rice — and that's only because so many of you think soy-sauce is acceptable. It lives in that iffy area between a condiment and an actual dish, kind of like ketchup or thousand-island dressing. It's such a valued commodity in Asia that we have entire stores dedicated to the jerking of various meats: from beef to pork, swordfish to squid. Basically they end up frying the meat after the actual "jerking" process and then grind it up. It lasts for ages and probably has as much MSG as Cup-o-Noodles. But man, it

tastes so good.

Most of the time you just eat this stuff with porridge in the morning, but since its acceptable to have cereal for dinner in college, why not pork sung? At two or three in the morning when you're tired of the chicken-flavored ramen, you just make a cup of rice and in twenty minutes, you're going to town. It fills you up for cheap — just like ramen. How great is that?!

You can get this stuff for under \$10 at any of the local Asian markets, like Super 88. The texture is crunchy, kind of like salty cotton candy (ya weird I know) and has a sweetness comparable to BBQ-ed meat. The tiny Mexican from Michigan and the curly haired Oregonian who claims he's from northern California or "Nor Kal" as some would say, were quickly converted to my side.

Now for those of you who DO know what I'm talking about, here are some time-tested ways to enjoy your sung. Yes, atop of a bowl of rice is always good, but try it on top of some noodles or ramen. My mom likes putting some toast in the toaster and making a sandwich of it with mayo. I've even been told that it tastes great with butter instead of mayo, but personally I think that's kind of gross. That's like taking a chili-dog and shaving pieces of lard on top before frying it.

Oh and one more thing, it's perfectly normal to just take spoonfuls of the stuff straight from the jar. It's probably as wrong as enjoying your occasional peanut butter fingers, but who cares? Peanut butter fingers? Yeah, watch. Omph, awwwwwww.

## Worlds Beyond the Mackerel It's All About Bits and Cache

By Akshay Patil

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

I've got a serious case of hardware envy. This may sound strange to you, the perhaps unacquainted-with-the-geekiness-of-this-column reader, but as normal readers might know, this is nothing new.

A large LCD monitor is enough to make me feel seriously inadequate. When I'm around dual processors, I can just feel the air pulsing with another machine's virility. It's an obsession of mine that can get me in trouble too. I'll be in somebody else's room and they'll catch me checking out their equipment when they're not paying attention. It's quite embarrassing, let me tell you.

What makes this particular situation even more troubling is that this case of equipment envy is within the family. That's right, I'm envious of my sister's hardware. Sad, but true. For the first time in my life, my sister has a swagger to her step that I just can't match anymore.

Ever since I can remember, I've had better hardware than her. Until recently, there wasn't even a competition — she's been stuck with a clunker of a laptop that no one in their right mind would ever try to use on batteries, let alone carry anywhere. It had a Centrino processor, for heaven's sake! Seriously, the thing was slower than a snail in molasses frozen to a glacier.

Now, granted, nothing I had was really that much faster, but I had THREE computers to

her one. Talk about outgunned. Sure, two of them are desktops and neither of them is fast, but it wasn't like her laptop was going anywhere. And, adding insult to un-endowment, I had a sleek, svelte laptop which, even to this day, makes the ladies coo, "Oh! It's so small and light!"

But I should have known that such dominance was sure to end. Just as comeuppance for the 2004 Lakers and the 2004 Yankees seems so obvious in hindsight, I should have known that laziness and cockiness would catch up with me in the end. What's sad is that I saw it coming yet did nothing.

One fateful day, my sister started complaining that her dinosaur of a computer was making strange clicking noises. No problem, I told her, go ask Information Services to check it out and saddle it back up for you. Ever optimistic, I blindly subscribed to the soon-to-fail belief that status quo would triumph as usual.

I/S effectively shot her computer in the head. Not only was it dying, they candidly told her, but she should never use it again. They even made graphic explosion noises and whispered "the horror, the horror" to further push their point. A quick consultation with the 'rents ensued and then, like a guillotine blade crashing through the neck of the executioner, the task of getting my sister a new computer fell upon me.

The kind of computer user she was, the things she wanted out of a laptop, it all added up to a 12-inch Apple Powerbook. The deci-

sion was easy, the process excruciatingly painful.

I still can't remember ordering the computer or even picking it up. I think after long enough, my mind shut off and my body just functioned without consciousness. Before I knew it, I was handing my sister a box containing one of the sexiest systems on the planet and, as I stood next to her, I, for the time in my life, felt a sweeping sense of hardware envy about my sister.

I've spent the last few days trying to come to terms. My own laptop has taken to sleeping on the futon because it's tired of me being so cold to it and murmuring "Oh! Titanium!" in my sleep. I get chills and my hands become clammy whenever I see someone using their own Powerbook. Sometimes, late at night, and I'm terribly ashamed to admit this, I wait until my suitemate's gone to sleep and then I go to <http://www.apple.com/powerbook/>.

But I need to be strong. Some say that admitting your problem is half the battle. I only hope with time I can fortify myself against these crashing waves of jealousy. One day I will become a better person, happy for my sister and her good fortune. One day I will sleep soundly and not cry out into the night in desperation. One day I will get a new laptop, and it will kick the crap out of her stupid, sleek, sexy hunk of computing.

Actually I don't have a sister, I just made all this up. E-mail your outrage to mackerel@mit.edu.

## Sex and The SafeRide Do it Early And Often

By Danchai Mekadanaumporn

CAMPUS LIFE COLUMNIST

Why should I vote this year?

I could tell you how important your vote is. I could tell you how you could be the deciding factor in an incredibly close presidential, congressional, or local race. I could even tell you that it is your civic duty and that for a democracy like ours to work, everyone needs to be involved in the democratic process. But I'm not going to give you those reasons because:

1. You've heard it all before, and I'm sure that you know it's important, right?

2. This is a sex column. I don't usually write about your civic duty.

3. If you're reading this, you're probably tickled by the fact that a Bush and Dick are running our country.

However, in line with the theme of this column, I will give you one good reason to vote: sex.

Let's face it; sex sells, and it sells products ranging from lingerie to beer. Why shouldn't it sell political participation? That's exactly what the folks at [www.votergasm.org](http://www.votergasm.org) are trying to do. Their goal is to get out the vote by using sex as a reward and the withholding of sex as a punishment.

There are three levels of participation: Citizen, Patriot, and American Hero — each comes with its own stipulations. Citizens pledge to withhold sex from non-voters for a week after the election. A Patriot pledge is a step up which includes having sex with a voter on election night. American Heroes pledge to have sex on election night and withhold sex from non-voters for the next 4 years. Get your freak on, Rambo.

It may be a little late for those who haven't registered to vote, but I encourage everyone to sign up, vote, and get laid.

**How do your parents feel about you being a sex columnist? I mean they're Asian, right? They must be freaking out!**

Actually, that's a funny story. They're not really opposed to it at all.

When I was growing up, my parents were typical and they said typical parent things, such as, "You can't date until you're 30." Of course, when I started dating in high school, they said, "If you get her pregnant, you're dead," or "You need to concentrate on school, not women." You don't really expect their sentiments to change when you get to college.

Well, I guess they changed their mind. After I broke up with a long-time girlfriend, my parents encouraged me to date around. In fact, they wanted to subsidize me. "Don't be cheap, take a girl out to a steak dinner," is not what I expected to hear from my father.

What's worse is when he started to give me advice. The conversation was pretty one-sided and pretty much went like this:

*Dad:* Back in my day, I got around. Don't tell your mom.

*Me:* What?!

*Dad:* Anyway, anyone who tells you that sex isn't important is stupid. Fuck them. After you graduate, I might teach you some techniques.

*Me:* Oh god! (Look of disgust and horror)

*Dad:* What? Don't look at me like that. It's nothing to be embarrassed about!

*Me:* Of course it is! My father is telling me he'll teach me sex techniques!

And you wonder why I'm a sex columnist.

If you gain anything from this traumatic experience of mine, heed my father's words:

*Sex is important and anyone who tells you otherwise is stupid.*

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## Kudos to the Red Sox!

# In the Parlance of Our Times

## You Have No Frame of Reference Here...

By Zach Ozer

CAMPUS LIFE COLUMNIST

The Red Sox. John Forbes Kerry. It seems like the good lord has blessed the state of Massachusetts with more than its fair share of fortune.

Some would argue that these events are not good luck, but rather satisfaction for the many slaps in the face that Massholes have received over the course of the past 86 years. This view, although appealing, is incomplete. Let us, for a moment, look at these events as the original settlers of Massachusetts would have.

For those not familiar with the history of the Commonwealth, it was original settled by Puritans, a religious group who believed that individuals should be reformed by the grace of god and humbled by the knowledge that without him, they would face a life of eternal damnation. They did not believe in superstition, luck, coincidences, or pleasure of any kind. For any good Puritan, it would seem that the Lord would never bestow much goodness without much suffering later.

When viewed through this lens, one must

then begin to question how the people of Massachusetts could honestly believe that things could ever go well for them. The answer: *they can't*.

Let us analyze the facts. Massachusetts is a cold, miserable place about 80 percent of any given year. Sure, the snow is fun the first couple of days, but after that, everything stays cold and wet for months. There's the rain in between seasons. During the summer, the humidity goes through the roof and, despite the fact that it's freezing all winter, the temperature goes up to 90 degrees most days of the summer. And then, to top it all off, the Red Sox lose. Yep. The good Lord loves to hate Boston. That should make one more than slightly suspicious about His motives for letting John Kerry get the presidential nomination and letting the Red Sox go to the World Series.

"But they're independent events!" a 6.041 colleague of mine said. I can't prove him wrong, given that I'm writing this article in the middle of lecture, but I think he's right. If one looks at the history of the Red Sox losing and compares it to the presidential elections of

the 20th century, some striking correlations become readily apparent. Up to 1901, the only major party candidates from Massachusetts were a father and son team: John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Combined, they ran six times and won only twice, once a piece.

Since 1901, three candidates have been from Massachusetts: Calvin Coolidge in 1924, Kennedy in 1960, and Michael Dukakis in 1988. In the years that the Sox were winning the series, 1901-1918, no one from Massachusetts even got a party nomination, and then, in 1924, Coolidge is elected into office... or was he?

Actually, he'd served as VP and took over the office in 1923, then stole the election a year later. So did he really win? Not really. Pattern: Sox win, candidate should lose. Skip to 1946 and 1948. Sox lose the series. Kennedy wins the Presidency in 1960, although some would say that Nixon actually won. In 1967, Sox lose again. Pattern: Masshole steals the presidency, Red Sox lose.

Finally, Dukakis in 1988. This was two years after the infamous Bill Buckner incident

at the World Series. The Sox were robbed of the series. Pattern: Candidate loses big, Sox robbed of the series.

With this information under my belt, I feel good enough to predict this year's election as well as the outcome of the World Series (which everyone will already know by the time you read this).

The Puritans would not have considered it mere coincidence that the man who single-handedly saved the Red Sox from eternal damnation bears more than a passing resemblance to Jesus. Result: Sox are saved.

Given the information that when the Red Sox win, the candidate who wins must steal the election, I feel confident predicting that George W. Bush will be re-elected to the presidency. That or this election's going Indecision 2000 style with Kerry pulling off a Game 5 David Ortiz-style steal in the Supreme Court. Maybe the curse of the Bambino is still around and we're just sharing the love with the rest of the country. Misery *loves* company. Why do you think Texans voted Bush into office?

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# FEATURES

## Candidates for Massachusetts 8th Suffolk District

By Beckett W. Sterner

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Besides electing our new President and Vice President this Tuesday, voters in the 8th Suffolk District (including those voting at Kresge) will also elect their new representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The 8th Suffolk Dis-

trict also includes part of Cambridge, Back Bay (including many fraternities), Beacon Hill, Area 4, West End, and Cambridgeport.

There are three candidates running for the seat, representing the Republican, Democratic and recently formed America First parties. *The Tech* sat down for an hour-long interview with each in the past two weeks, excerpts of which are given

below. The interviews ranged over national, state and local issues, with each candidate presenting distinctive answers to many of the questions facing Massachusetts and the U.S. today. At a time when the states are deciding many problems with national import, such as gay marriage, our representatives to state legislature should not be forgotten in the race to Tuesday.

### Richard Babson

*The Tech:* Can you talk a little bit about your background with Babson College and business, and how that would bear on the issues facing you?

*Richard Babson:* This is definitely something where I'm talking about trying to bring more innovation and entrepreneurship to government. My experience with Babson — as they say, a long family association, various members of my family having been trustees — I was on the board of the corporation and now I'm secretary of the board of the overseers. I have participated actively in various of their committees, at one point looking at some buildings and grounds and endowment. What I find really amazing is at the college, they look at running their college as a business. So for instance if they're looking at managing buildings, they make a strategic decision, okay, do we want to be managing buildings, do we want to be managing *our* buildings, maybe we want to create a company that will help manage the buildings for MIT or Simmons [College] or Wellesley, and they'll actually look at it as a business model that way and make a strategic decision whether or not to manage buildings. They made a strategic decision not to, so they went out and hired Hunniman to manage their buildings. Same thing with their restaurant in their dining hall, which is run by Sodexo...

*TT:* How do you see this experience bearing on the kind of typical government issues like education or health care or social security?

*RB:* Well, there is certainly is a lot more innovation and entrepreneurial thinking that can take place. But we've found not only just in life's problems but also in government's problems, just throwing money at something is not the answer — there's that old fashioned saying that teach them to fish and they can fish for the rest of their lives, feed them a fish and they're back for their next meal — so in terms of, as I say, combining the funds along with new and strategic thinking. An example of this at least that I talk about in my platform, again, putting markets to work, is prescription drug benefits: repealing the prohibition on prescription drugs from Canada, letting markets work, creating a level playing field. The city of Springfield for instance saved about three million dollars a year so far. The state auditor for the commonwealth of Kentucky is looking at estimated savings of about 100 million. It could be substantially more here in the United States [sic]. As I say, it's just creating a level playing field with what other countries are doing abroad. Actually, it can create substantial savings particularly for those who are on medicine or have to take medicine, you know, substantial savings for their pocketbook. I'm also in favor the income tax back to the five percent level, which is the voter approved level. I feel that's a promise that was made to the voters. It'll create more of a climate of competition. It'll create more of a healthy business climate. It'll create more spending on the part of the consumers, add I think it's about 3,500 jobs, and millions of dollars to the economy in new investment. And I think particularly at this point in time help prime the pump when gasoline prices are going up and oil's at over fifty dollars a barrel. It's something that we can do, and I'm one of those folks who, looking at government spending, doesn't believe that they should be given a blank check — that households have to live within their means; government should live within its means. And there are ways to do that, ways to be more efficient. The Department of Environmental Protection, for instance, over the last couple of years has reduced its labor force and its operating budget by about 25 percent each. And yet over that same period of time they've increased enforcement by 50 percent and their fines that they've levied against people have increased by about 50 percent. One of the ways that they've done this is by using technology, particularly aerial photographs and computer technology in looking at wetlands protection. There's an example of doing things smarter and more efficiently. For years, I don't know if you quite have this experience, but the registry of motor vehicles was just an awful experience. [Secretary of Transportation] Dan

### Marty Walz

*The Tech:* Your political background began with the neighborhood association in Back Bay?

*Marty Walz:* My political background began as a small child, actually. Seriously. My parents were very involved in political campaigns when I was growing up, and so they used to send my brothers and sisters and I out going door to door with campaign literature. This was back in the 1960's in the day where kids could wander around in the neighborhood unsupervised and nobody thought twice of it. And we were living in this highly Republican town outside of Rochester, New York, and we were one of the only Democratic families, and I'm convinced my parents sent the cute kids out going door to door so that they didn't get yelled at by their neighbors. But I've been working on campaigns as a volunteer literally for as long as I can remember. I don't remember a time when I wasn't in every fall putting literature in people's doorways or mailboxes or in the front door or whatever...

*TT:* So what do you see as the major problems facing the 8th Suffolk district right now? What are the big issues?

*MW:* Well, there are issues that are related to the local neighborhood component, and then there are big issues that affect other districts and the state equally. I think one of the issues that affects the state as a whole is how do we balance the state budget. Sort of at its most fundamental, how much taxes are we going to pay in order to balance the state budget? And we have this enormous budget crises. It's been happening and will be happening for the next few years. And, you know, it's probably very theoretical to students, because most people on campus, the students, are not paying income tax, or if they are it's a very small amount of money. So the budget crisis that we're feeling in the Commonwealth probably feels very removed. It's one of the most important issues we face, because we don't have the money to do what we want to do. Everything else gets affected and everything else gets cut back...

A wonderful example, we've cut back the Department of Health's budget by 25 percent. We've cut and eliminated most public education programs about HIV and AIDS. Is it any wonder, at the high school level or the college level, infection rates are skyrocketing? Because we have a whole generation of people that aren't getting the information they need to keep themselves safe. So in some sense, on issues like that, these are life or death issues. And so the cutbacks can have an impact on students, so take it from very theoretically "We have a budget crisis" to "What does this mean if I'm a student at MIT?" If you're not getting information you need as a person living here to stay healthy and safe from contagious diseases it matters...

What may be more relevant is the governor has a very specific conservative agenda that he is putting forth, that my opponent [Richard Babson] is putting forth, and it really goes to what kind of Massachusetts do we want to be. Do we want to support stem cell research? Do we want to have equal marriage rights for people? Do we want to try to achieve a pro-choice majority? For example, in the House of Representatives right now, of particular interest to the women on campus, we don't have a pro-choice majority in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

*TT:* As in a number of representatives forming a majority of the vote?

*MW:* Right. We don't have a pro-choice majority, and so it's very difficult, if not impossible sometimes, to get legislation through. It's a little shocking. Most people would never have guessed that in Massachusetts the House of Representatives doesn't have a pro-choice majority. But we don't. And the way it plays out is that we were not able to pass last session a bill called the Emergency Contraception Bill, which is exactly what it is: when you need contraception in an emergency you can get it. And we couldn't get it passed through the legislature because we didn't have a pro-choice majority...

*TT:* And, sort of on a more local level?

*MW:* What are some of the key issues? Really, it comes down

### Tom White

*The Tech:* MIT as a university represents a very unique community within the larger residential and commercial interests of the district. What do you see as the issues facing the community, or the unique things as a representative you could bring?

*Tom White:* Well, I don't have enough expertise, to be honest with you, to really address it except to say this: research involvement is very important. I want to help the MIT university as much as I possibly can. To say that I'm expert in this or that, you know, I'm really not... I don't have any other answer at this particular time, and if there's some specific issue I'd be more than happy to address it.

*TT:* One issue that has come up in the past few years is, and this is a larger Boston-wide problem, too, is the problem of universities increasing their graduate student enrollment without building the same amount of housing to go along with it. So the housing prices and the rent prices have gone up drastically. Do you think there's a way for the state to help address these problems?

*TW:* To be honest with you, I'm really not certain. I wish I could give you an answer, you know, it would make me feel good, but I honestly don't know. I think it's a matter of being in there, getting my feet wet, and then finding out how I can best help. To say from outside — I came here and gave a talk once across the street, and that's about the only thing that I'm really honestly aware of...

*TT:* To get some background, could you talk a little about the America First Party, and the ideas that underlie it and what its particular view is on politics?

*TW:* We're fiscally and socially conservative. We want to get the most bang for the buck for the taxpayer, and we want to stay within the framework of the U.S. Constitution as it really should be, and we're not at this time, whether it's Mr. Kerry or Mr. Bush. We don't see that they're doing it as they should be doing it. We got into war and other things. We're a party that's just two years old, but yet, because of the dissatisfaction of the electorate, we have had over five million hits in the two years we've been in existence. We have thirteen states that we're in right now, our membership numbers we don't give out at this time, but I can say that we have members in almost every state in the union. We're hoping that, since I'm the national party governing chairman, by the summer, if not the summer by the fall at the latest, to have all fifty states up and running as a state party organization. If there's some particular issue that you're concerned with, I'd be happy to...

*TT:* Sure... This was on your [Web site], that you had said there was evidence in nature that marriage was between a man and a woman, or that there was evidence supporting a Natural Law. I was wondering if you could explain that a little bit more or explain what that means.

*TW:* If you look at the founding documents of our country, similar to the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence, the Declaration says that, in so many words, trusting in divine providence — you know they didn't say Buddha, Jesus Christ or anyone, but just simply the Natural Law... Nature is law and Nature is God, and in the first phrasing of the Declaration of Independence, the founding documents clearly say that the laws are Nature and Nature is God. So that if you're looking at the laws of Nature, take for instance gravity, if you walk over to a cliff, surely, if you violate the laws of Nature there, gravity, you're going to kill yourself, or get seriously injured. The same thing is true with people: there is a creator of all of us. I know some people may believe in the big bang theory, but just as some scientists in years past have tried to find the smallest particle or atom, then they find out later on that it's not the smallest particle, and so we've had this continual searching for truth. There's truth in just looking out the window and seeing nature at work. We can be sure that in the morning the sun's



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Republican Party candidate Richard Babson.



SOURCE — MARTY WALZ

Democratic Party candidate Marty Walz.



CONNIE YEE

America First Party candidate Tom White.

# Babson, Continued

Grabauskas went in there looking at the Registry of Motor Vehicles as though it should be a modern operating service business, where the people coming should actually be treated in a welcoming way as customers, and they did a fantastic job. So there are examples of how the corporate culture, if you want to call it that, of government can change, and that's part of what I'm looking forward to bring to the equation.

*TT:* MIT as a university is quite unique compared to the residential and commercial interests in the district otherwise. What do you see as some issues facing MIT in particular, the faculty, students and staff who live and work in the district?

*RB:* Well I know that one issue that is of concern because it comes from time to time: this has happened over by the Boston Medical Center when you're dealing with biotechnology research centers, what's happening in the laboratory, safeguards on those laboratories, even concerns about stuff like low-level radiation. Those are neighborhood concerns that can draw attention.

The latest thing that of course people have all read is about partying and hazing. I know that MIT students work hard because I've had some friends of mine who've gone to MIT. It's certainly a heavy workload, and yet at the same time it's always nice to be able to blow off some steam. It's just there are productive ways to do that, too...

*TT:* I know one problem that faces both the normal residents and also the students, especially graduate students at MIT and Cambridge, is the cost of housing and the availability of housing... How can we address those issues and what do you see as possible solutions to make it more affordable?

*RB:* Again, there's no silver bullet. We're on a fixed amount of land here. I don't know what the university might be able to do in that regard. I know that both Cambridge and Boston, when you're dealing multi-unit housing type structures, try to set some aside for affordable housing, but I don't know how well students fit into that particular equation. This is an area where, when

you're talking about Harvard and MIT, it may be that Harvard and MIT will have to build some more dormitories. That's focusing on student life, student living. It's extremely difficult not only just for students but also for businesses here in the commonwealth where the cost of housing directly impacts their ability to recruit...

*TT:* You've said that you're in support of gay marriage as a right, but you also recently accepted the endorsement of Governor Mitt Romney, who has fought against it in many ways. How do you plan on balancing the standard position of the Republican Party on this issue versus your own beliefs?

*RB:* I've been a Republican for a long time, most of my life, and in Massachusetts the Republican Party, you know the people I recall and remember, folks like Elliot Richardson or Frances Sargeant or Frank Hatch, all, even Bill Weld more recently, you've got folks who are pro-choice like I am. Bill Weld, for instance, in favor of same-sex marriage. I think he actually officiated at one for some friends of his. This was something that when I informed the Massachusetts Republican Party that I was running, this is all just part and parcel of the package. It's something that I do feel very strongly about. It's something that the Governor and I disagree about. Before he ran for governor, we had had some opportunities in an informal setting — I had been involved with some other people chatting to them about this — and he had some real problems with the m-word. For me, I see a very sharp distinction between civil marriage and holy matrimony, and there are other people who do not, regardless of party. I mean, there are a lot of Democrats, a lot of independents, a lot of Republicans who have some of the same issues. It crosses all across party lines, where you'll see it, though more as demographically. It's people my parents' age who have a little more of a problem with it, people my age have less of a problem with it, and it's my understanding that folks your age have even less. For me, it's really a question

about tolerance and acceptance or prejudice, and I actually think that coupled with the ability to get married come the responsibilities of marriage. In the same way that I feel that gays and lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people should be able to serve openly in the military — with that type of privilege also comes responsibility, and it's individual responsibility. For me, it's going back to the basic Republican values of Lincoln, which is empowering citizens to take personal responsibility for themselves. I see marriage, I see serving in the military as two of those privileges and responsibilities that shouldn't be prohibited based on sexual orientation.

*TT:* Final question, you've said that you support the idea of redistricting [to give Cambridge its own state Senate seat.]

*RB:* I'm actually in favor of what's called fair districts for fair elections. This is where you take the redistricting out of the hands of the legislature, you put it in a non-partisan commission. It's currently what they do in Iowa. If you look at a map of the precincts in Iowa, you can understand how they came up with the precincts. If you looked at the map of the precincts in Massachusetts, well, if you really knew what went on in the backroom, you might have some idea about how they possibly got that particular type of design. For myself, Governor Elbridge Gerry created gerrymandering, here in Massachusetts ages ago, and frankly I think it's time for the commonwealth to — I think it does an incredible disservice to the voters. If you do have a fair districts and they are drawn by a non-partisan commission, then there's the possibility for more competition. I believe that there would be more competition in the political process because you're not trying to create safe seats or rotten boroughs or whatever they were called. I think it would help challenge the sort of power of the incumbents. There would be more competition, and through that competition the voters of the Commonwealth would be better served because there's more dialogue, there's more enunciation of positions in a competitive campaign.

# Walz, Continued

to a couple of particular issues that have an umbrella that I use to talk about what kind of quality of life are we going to have here. If you think about everything from there's not enough affordable housing — we've got a phenomenal housing crisis, particularly in these neighborhoods where housing is unaffordable for most people. We just need more housing. We have got to as a state get more housing going. You know students are going to have a much longer commute if we continue along with this crisis. If we don't create more housing, it becomes incredibly expensive to live near campus or on campus, and so housing is a very specific need throughout this district. People are being driven out because we can't afford to stay...

And then there are other issues, particularly about maintenance of the parkway along the Charles River. We have a state agency called the Department of Conservation and Recreation that is woefully underfunded and understaffed, and so the parkland is in dire need of improvements... That's Boston side and Cambridge side there. It's greatly neglected: we have boat lanes that are literally crumbling into the river; we have docks that are so decayed, they're roped off because if somebody goes out on them, they'll fall right into the water. There are playing fields in a public park not far from here that every time it rains they flood, there's no drainage. So it means you can't play. And so it's lack of maintenance, it's lack of resources. We have this beautiful river front that's a mess...

*TT:* Going back to the housing issue for a second, what are some of the specific steps the city or the state can take on that level, because I know specifically at MIT one of the problems has been that the number of the graduate students has close to

doubled in the last ten years or so, and we've only built some lesser percent of housing to accommodate them.

*MW:* I think all of the colleges and universities, and MIT included, need to build more on campus housing, and Mayor Menino in Boston has made this a tremendous priority. Cambridge has made it less of a priority, but that's clearly part of the solution. It's much more economical, I would assume, to be in on campus housing than it is to pay market rents off campus. But one of the reasons that we need to build more on campus housing is the laws of supply and demand: I mean the more supply the lower the costs are going to be. So the more MIT builds more apartment buildings and more on campus housing, the market's going to stabilize, and rents are going to stabilize and decrease. So part of it is all of the colleges and universities I think need to build more housing...

Part of it is that the state needs to create incentive programs for developers to build more housing. You know, I live in the Back Bay, and there's lots of new housing being built, and it's all million dollar plus condos. Well, I can't afford it... But that's what the market wants, so I think we need to intervene and give incentives to developers to build housing that people of moderate and limited income can afford to live in. You know we're building these million dollar condos because they're highly profitable, but that leaves the rest of us without housing...

*TT:* You've brought up some problems with the park services and so forth, and all of this woefully underfunded. It requires the money, but the state's in a budget crisis. How does this balance out?

*MW:* Well, we're going to need to get more revenue. It's not very complicated. We've got to have enough money to do what it is you need to do. We have lowered taxes on businesses forty some times, maybe it's 42 tax cuts for businesses in the last fifteen years or so. We have very low taxes for businesses, and some businesses that are very profitable pay the minimum income tax, which is about 400 some dollars a year. So it seems to me that we need to take a good hard look at, are people, individuals as well as corporations, paying their fair share. You know, we don't get to take our incomes and put them offshore. Businesses can take their income through accounting mechanisms and creating different subsidiaries and move their income out of Massachusetts... So it's closing those sorts of loopholes that make businesses pay their fair share of taxes, and it's not to say just let's tax the heck out of every business in the commonwealth, because that's not incredibly smart, but it is to say all of us need to pay a fair share...

We also have to be realistic about what we can afford to do in what period of time. I mean, we don't have endless resources. We can't do everything we want to do next year. We can't afford it. You know short of a dramatic increase in the personal income tax, we can't afford to do everything we want to do, and the voters don't want a big increase in the personal income tax. So you have to figure out what are our priorities. What can we afford to do on what timetable? Because we're not going to be able to do it all next year, we know that. You know we can't get all the money for fixing up the Charles River basin next year, it's not going to happen...

# White, Continued

going to rise and is going to set in the west in the afternoon. Same thing with the tides: the tides are going to go out at a certain time, and they're going to come in at a certain time. The same thing is true with a man or a woman. Take for instance your computer. You have a male and female plug. I mean, why not have two male plugs? Why? Because it won't work. Your computer will stop functioning. It won't function. The same thing is true in life. Our creator said to us, let us make man in our image, man meaning man and woman, and so the thing is that we share everything so closely, we're so closely intertwined, a man and a woman, that that's the only way that one could have true happiness is to follow the laws of nature and nature's god...

*TT:* The way some people approach the question at least, is between the notion that religion, typically Christianity, will only bless a marriage between a man and a woman, but there are civic benefits to marriage that the state endorses that are separate from the religious blessing. Does the Natural Law fit in with the notion that two men should not receive the same civic benefits that the state defined marriage should give?

*TW:* I don't want you, or anyone else, to have any one more right than I have. If you do, then you're denying my right to equal benefits. And so the thing is, it has always been something to assist the family that has allowed certain things to be given to a married couple for procreative purposes, for building the family, for keeping the family together, that when you're talking about something, I would have to say arbitrary and capricious, as saying that two men and two women can give you the same effect as a man and a woman, it doesn't wash. For instance, I was a son of a single parent; my mother had four children. I didn't know my father until I was 33, and what helped me find my father was some papers that I had "borrowed" from my mom from her trunk. When she went out, I opened it up and years and years later it helped me find my father. Why was there this secret to know? Why did Alex Haley want to know where his roots were? It's a yearning that's inside you that you want to be whole, but I cannot see that, to address it specifically, that is not natural [sic] for two men and two

women to seem to me to be a couple. Friends, yes; couple, no.

*TT:* Shifting topics, your Web site also said that you saw public education as basically having failed at this point. What do you see as the problems with the current system and are there specific measures that can be taken to help improve it?

*TW:* I attended a conference out in Worcester, and there was different individuals there, and they all elaborated on what they felt were concerns that they had about what's going on in education in the United States. One lady had a book that was about three, four inches in thickness... Then there was another group called the Concerned Women for America, and they had a book about public education, and the contents of this small, five dollar manual, said that if you were to look in various states, whether it be Ohio, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, New Jersey, these different states, plus Illinois had the same type of education, outcome based education, and the governor of New Jersey, for instance, in a national government association meeting, broadcast on C-SPAN, said "Oh yeah, we had that philosophy. It was junk, and we just dumped it." Now in Illinois, you might be interested to know, that the parents there sued the state for an offense of educational malpractice. Guess what? They won. So the thing is, that you have a type of education, look-say versus phonics, for instance. Which is the better way to teach? Look-say or phonics?

*TT:* It probably depends.

*TW:* Phonics. That's why, take a look at the MCAS results... for eighth grade students, both Cambridge and Boston, the MCAS is supposed to be a snapshot of where we are at a particular moment in time. Well here are the results from 2003, and look at them, one-by-one-by-one and you'll see that we haven't had any improvement, I mean that we've had little improvement, I should say... There's some serious problems, especially when you realize that when you get to your level, in college and MIT of all places, you want people who are not functional illiterates. Yet that is what's happening. I have no college, but do I sound like a dumbie? I hope not. I mean, why, because I've tried to study, I've tried to make something of myself, and I'm not sitting here saying to

you I'm some expert. I'm not. I know an eraser is at the end of every pencil, or almost every pencil. We all make mistakes.

*TT:* What do you think are some specific steps that Massachusetts as a state should take to improve its public education?

*TW:* Well the first thing we need to do is recognize there's a problem. Funding is not the problem. The problem is in what we've been teaching since 1993.

*TT:* Can you expand on that?

*TW:* No. I mean, to get into the specifics at this point would take too long. I'm just saying to you that what we need to do is to understand that we have a real problem, and the problem is what we're and how we're teaching. I mean, to teach about condoms in the classroom, or to teach about sex education and all these different things, all take away from the necessary time that you need to study calculus, trig, math, science. I think what it really boils down to is that we have too many cooks in the kitchen. It's not the good teachers. I stand with the good teachers like you can't believe, but if we talk about the educators, then those are the ones that I think need to be dealt with...

*TT:* What do you see as some of the most important problems facing the 8th district right now? What do you think needs to be done first and fastest?

*TW:* Get me elected state rep. Once I'm elected, we can start addressing a lot of the issues, I hope. It all depends on what happens with our new speaker. One of the reps said to me in the past, in the statehouse — I've spent hundreds of hours there, this is not a first time venture, like the other two candidates. I ran for state representative in 1990, '92 and '94. Each of the time I was just as serious as I am today. What I found, his question to me, "Do you think you can really make a difference up there, Tom?" I said, "Of course, or I wouldn't be running if I didn't." He said, "Not on your life." He said the speaker holds all the power, dictates what happens, and if you don't follow him, then you get nothing for the district. It remains to be seen how the new speaker will treat his fellow reps, because he's just a rep just like everyone else...

# Voting Systems Designed to Improve Accuracy

Voting, from Page 1

rate from three percent in 2000 to 0.9 percent.

How much of a decrease in the residual voting rate can be expected in this election?

"Electronic voting will most likely reduce errors in most places it's used," Selker said.

He expects the residual voting rate to decrease by a factor of two or three. Associate Dean of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Charles Stewart III, also a member of the VTP, provided a more conservative estimate of an expected decrease of one half to one percentage points, compared with the two percentage points of 2000.

## Results to be scrutinized

With the new voting technologies in place, should we expect more or less controversy than in 2000?

"On the average, the nation is better prepared in terms of equipment in 2004 than" in 2000, Stewart said. However, he added, "because of greater press scrutiny, it may appear," that things are worse.

Stewart said that he expects "even more litigation this time around, including more frivolous litigation," as thousands of lawyers are already preparing themselves for days in court.

Ansolabehere said, however, that he anticipates that the courts have learned that election disputes must be resolved quickly, and he expects that any election-related litigation will be consolidated and resolved in a timely manner.

The new technologies, particularly DREs, also rely on poll workers for their results to be reliable.

DREs require that the count on the machine be recorded prior to the

election. Should a poll worker fail to record this number, or do so incorrectly, the results from the DREs would be invalidated, Selker said. "It's really important that there always be a lot of eyes" monitoring elections, including the recording of the initial count, Stewart said.

In addition, many small counties do not have the capabilities to properly monitor the new technologies. "Rural counties don't have the capacities to deal with equipment," in terms of storing and maintaining the machines, said Ansolabehere. "If we move further into electronic voting, rural counties will have to have companies run their elections for them," he said.

The ballot design and user interface of the new technologies also remain largely untested. Selker said no systematic standard for ballot design exists, and many ballots are poorly designed. Stewart said that the usability of DREs is questionable, as no studies have determined whether the user interfaces will confuse voters.

## Lack of paper trail concerns some

How would these new technologies fare in the event of a recount? One common complaint from adversaries of the new voting technology is that there is not a paper trail in many electronic voting machines, leaving no contingency plan for a recount.

"There will be people who will not believe the outcome because they can't get a paper ballot," Stewart said.

The optical scan machines are therefore considered by some to be superior to DREs, as they produce a paper record. If the result is questionable, "you can go back and check the paper," Adida said.

DREs that have been modified to include a paper trail don't necessarily solve this problem; rather, they

can introduce more serious problems as a result the mechanical systems that output the paper. Printers can jam or run out of ink, necessitating that poll workers open the printer, allowing for the possibility of accidental or intentional tampering with the results, said Stewart.

In a recent election in Nevada, Selker said that he observed a poll worker cutting off part of the paper printout in an attempt to unjam the printer, effectively eliminating the record of many votes.

Stewart believes the paper trail isn't as necessary as some people claim. In fact, "because you have the paper, it's easy to change," he said. People unreasonably believe that "paper is somehow magic and incorruptible," he said, when in fact it is prone to fraud as well. Paper can be "lost, stolen, added to, or destroyed," Selker said, so the paper trail of a DRE is not a reliable backup.

Selker suggested that a technology he has developed that uses an audio transcript as a backup to the votes recorded on the DRE would be less susceptible to the problems of the paper printout, but this audio technology is not used in any of the present models.

## Absentee voting open to fraud

The new voting technologies address problems at the polls, but fail to provide an improvement in one of the greatest areas of election fraud: absentee ballots. Absentee ballots can easily be altered by coercion, manipulation, or fraud, Stewart said.

On the subject of absentee voting, Selker advises, "Don't do it; it's dangerous." Selker said that last September, he spoke with a poll worker who, when collecting absentee ballots, noticed that some didn't seem right and decided to simply erase some of the markings

she considered to be superfluous.

Ansolabehere also said that absentee voting creates a problem. "Some system's got to be developed where we can verify" the identity of the voter, he said. Currently, the signature is the only identifying feature.

Stewart acknowledges that absentee ballots "have to have their place in very specialized circumstances," but believes that they should generally be avoided when possible.

Though absentee voting is the least reliable method, it is an option that has become increasingly popular. In 1972, only five percent of votes came from absentee ballots, Ansolabehere said. Today, that number is twenty percent.

## New systems being developed

Will DREs and optical scan machines survive as voting technologies, or are they only temporarily advances until a better solution is found?

Ansolabehere expects that as absentee voting expands, the polling place "is going to become an obsolete thing." He anticipates that in 2008, internet voting will be in place for the military, and perhaps for all voters by 2012.

Selker said that Great Britain is currently testing a telephone voting system, which has shown a 25 percent increase in voter participation.

Adida is currently developing a technology called universally verifiable voting. In this scheme, cryptography is used to create a system where voters can track their vote through the election system without revealing their identity. When leaving the polls, a voter would take a receipt from the voting machine which would have a code that could be input into a secure online system to verify that the

vote was counted correctly. The basic technology for this has already been developed, Adida said, and some companies are working on an implementation.

Adida sees it as "the future of voting," and hopes that the technology could be implemented in twelve to sixteen years. An appeals process would have to be developed so that a voter could challenge the record of his vote.

Stewart, on the other hand, remains skeptical that technologies will be developed to supplant those being used in the current election. "I would hope there would be some sort of device," he said, but monetary incentives to innovate do not exist. "I think we're going to have many more DREs in the future," he said, as he does not predict significant amounts of money going into the voting system.

## Poll workers key to election

Until a perfect technology is developed, what can voters do to best ensure that their vote is counted? Selker recommends that voters "know where to vote, and then be careful."

"The poll workers are the key to a good election," he said, so anything you can do to help a poll worker, you should do." He also added that if a poll worker is not behaving correctly, a higher authority should immediately be contacted.

Until the data from the upcoming election is analyzed thoroughly, it will be impossible to say for certain whether or not optical scan machines and DREs significantly reduced the number of people disenfranchised by failures in collecting and counting votes. It's almost certain, however, with increased public and media scrutiny, that like the last election, controversy will not escape this one either.



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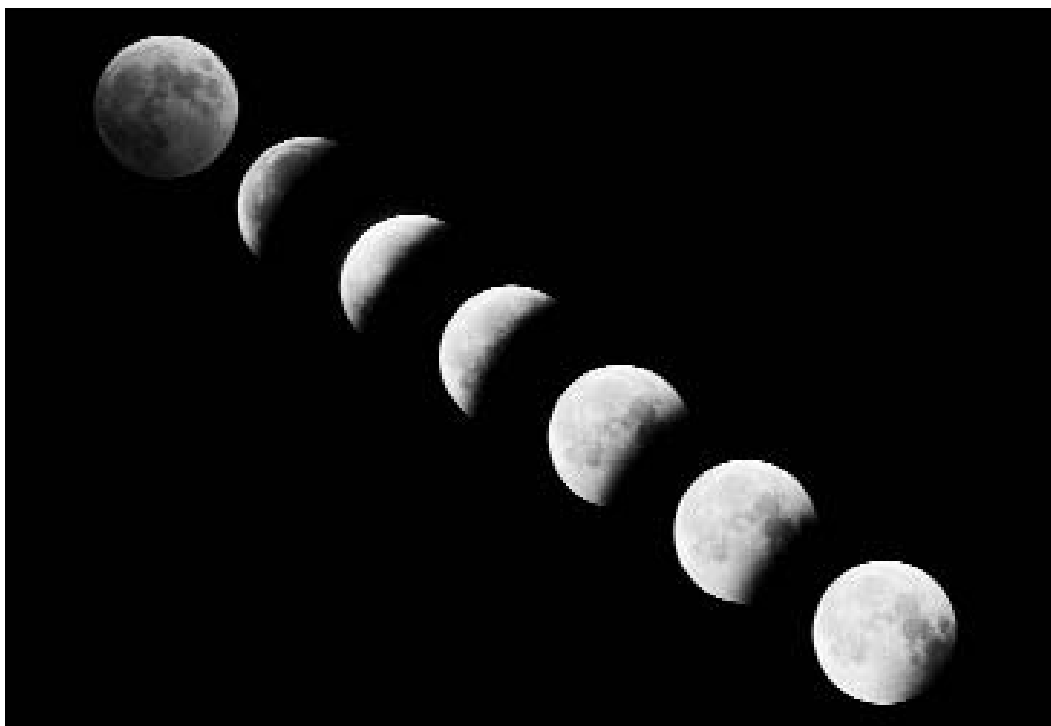
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Start Time	10:00 am
Contact	Eugene Lim - ejlim@mit.edu - (617) 990-7541 Visit <a href="http://www.andersonsrace.com">www.andersonsrace.com</a> for more information.
Registration	\$20 with registration form available in Lobby 10. Online registration is also available. First 300 registered will receive an Anderson's Race Against Leukemia T-shirt.
Awards	Top man and woman will receive a pair of New Balance shoes. Medals will be given to the winner in each age group.
Raffle	Two luxurious Bose sound systems, two eyeglasses prescriptions from EyeQ Optical, and other great prizes will be raffled off at the race.
Transportation	Limited parking will be available across from the American Legion Marsh Post on Greenough Boulevard. Shuttle service will be provided to the Athlete's Village from 7am to 1pm. The shuttle stops at 77 Mass Ave, and along Mass Ave at Beacon Street, Comm Ave, and in Harvard Square across from Au Bon Pain.
*Eat for Charity!*	Take this flyer to Pizzeria Unos locations in Copley Square, Harvard Square, or Kenmore Square on Oct. 29-31, and 20% of your meal check will be donated to Next Step and Medicines for Humanity.
Additional information	The Cammy Lee Leukemia Foundation will be holding a blood-typing drive in the Athlete's Village for Bone Marrow typing. For this year's event, we are pleased to have Pauline Chiou, a weekend news anchor and an assignment reporter for CBS4 News Boston, as the honorary chairperson for this event.

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# Total Eclipse of the Moon



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

(above) A composite photo showing the transition between different stages of the total lunar eclipse this past Wednesday. The first stage (top left), shows the eclipse in totality; the moon is illuminated only by light refracted through the Earth's atmosphere and glows faintly blood-red. This was the last total lunar eclipse visible from North America until 2007.

(left) Many people watching the final game of the World Series failed to notice an equally awe-inspiring event occurring right above them. The total lunar eclipse began just after 9 p.m. and continued through the end of the World Series game.

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### The Tech's Election Model

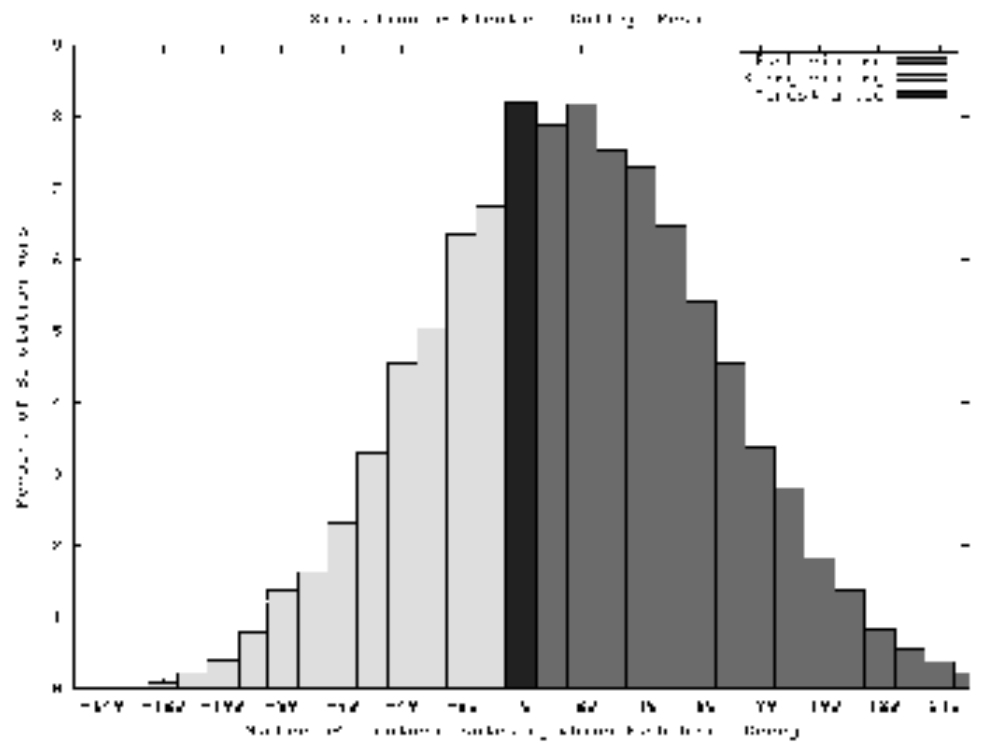
The Tech's computer model simulates the electoral college in the American presidential election, using the most recent state-by-state polling data from [www.electoral-vote.com](http://www.electoral-vote.com) and taking into account some of the uncertainty in the poll results. The model simulates one hundred thousand hypothetical state-by-state elections and sees which candidate prevails in each, and by how many electoral votes. This model is a fun way to synthesize the state-by-state polls in a way that respects their uncertainty, but it is not the only way! We welcome your comments.

Using data from October 28, the model estimates the probability of various outcomes if the election were held today:

Probability that President Bush is re-elected:	63%
Probability that Senator Kerry is elected:	35%
Probability that Ralph Nader is elected:	0.0%
Probability that the electoral vote is an exact tie:	1.7%

How to read these results: "We cannot say with confidence which candidate would win if the election were held today. Our best estimate is that President Bush is more likely to win."

Histogram of results:



More information is at <http://web.mit.edu/keithw/monte>.

— Keith J. Winstein

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# Wiring Signs Moved from Halls

EC, from Page 1

were also objects obstructing the "path of egress," or way for residents to efficiently leave in the event of a fire.

He said although residents were reluctant to take down some of the equipment they had mounted in hallways and lounges to comply with requirements, the overall sentiment was "one of understanding." "If we want to live here we have to follow these rules," he said.

"We worked with all the residents of East Campus, house masters" and house managers to make the changes, Nilsson said. "Everyone cooperated and did a super job, she said.

Quinn Mahoney '05, a resident of East Campus 2nd West, said he did not agree with some of the changes requested of the residents.

"They objected to the way we had installed" wiring for a music server and security cameras put up "for fun," he said. The music server allowed residents of to play music along that hall and in showers.

Mahoney said that by last Friday when the second inspection occurred, the cameras and music server with its wiring had been uninstalled. However, he said he hoped eventually, with Barber's help, they would be able to put it back up in a way that complied with safety requirements.

Mahoney said the cameras and music server were installed around 1997 or 1998. "In the past they had been more lenient," with fire code he said.

"I think a lot of the [requested changes were] unreasonable" and based on what he saw of the professional wiring "students sometimes do a better job... than the contractors" said Mahoney, a Course VI major.

"We did everything we could to please" the inspector because he could come back more frequently



MARISSA VOGT—THE TECH

Quinn Mahoney '05 changes wiring in the 2nd West lounge of East Campus to comply with fire codes. EC failed a fire inspection by the City of Cambridge, but must comply to renew its housing license.

if he was not satisfied, Mahoney said.

### 2004 inspections were more strict

Barber speculated that part of the reason East Campus did not initially pass the fire inspections was "this year the inspector was one of the more thorough" ones. He said the Cambridge inspection officials

rotated locations so a particular inspector might visit MIT once every five years.

Also, a 2003 nightclub fire in Rhode Island that killed about 100 people caused a general rise in fire safety awareness, he said.

If anything were to happen, the fire inspector would be held personally accountable, Barber said.

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### Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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ALBEE	NTH	VALUE
SEERS	TEA	ELITE
HOLD	THE	PHONE
SEAR	NAG	ABC
ART	TIMS	FARRAH
SORE	KEEN	LEONE
WAIT	JUST	AMINUTE
ARENA	HIKE	ONES
RERANG	NETS	DRY
MRS	SOS	DEES
STOP	PAND	THINK
TAHOE	LIE	TIBIA
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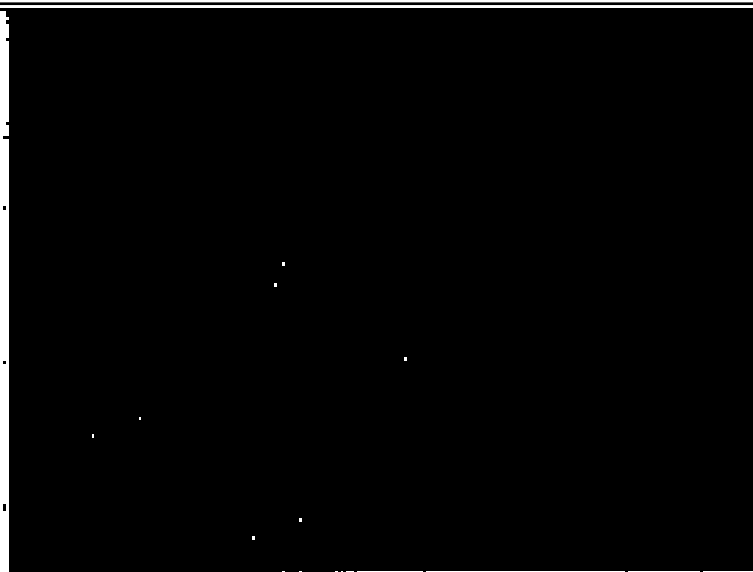
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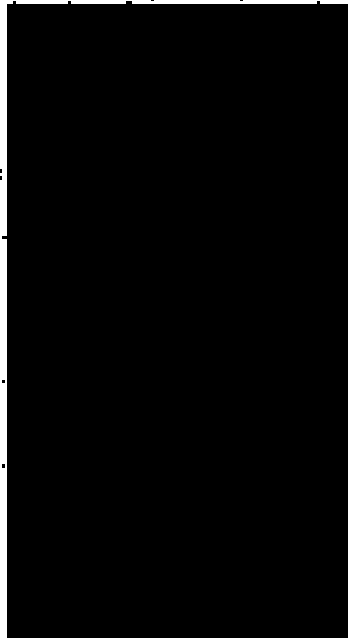
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# Inspiring "Red Sox Won" Photo Spread Head

For the first time since 1918, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series, defeating the St. Louis Cardinals in just four games. Signs wishing the Sox well hung everywhere, as people gathered once again in Kenmore Square to celebrate the victory. Counterclockwise from left:

Boston Red Sox fans set off sparklers in Kenmore Square.

Rioters wave a Red Sox flag in Kenmore Square.

A "Go Sox" banner hangs Wednesday morning on MacGregor.

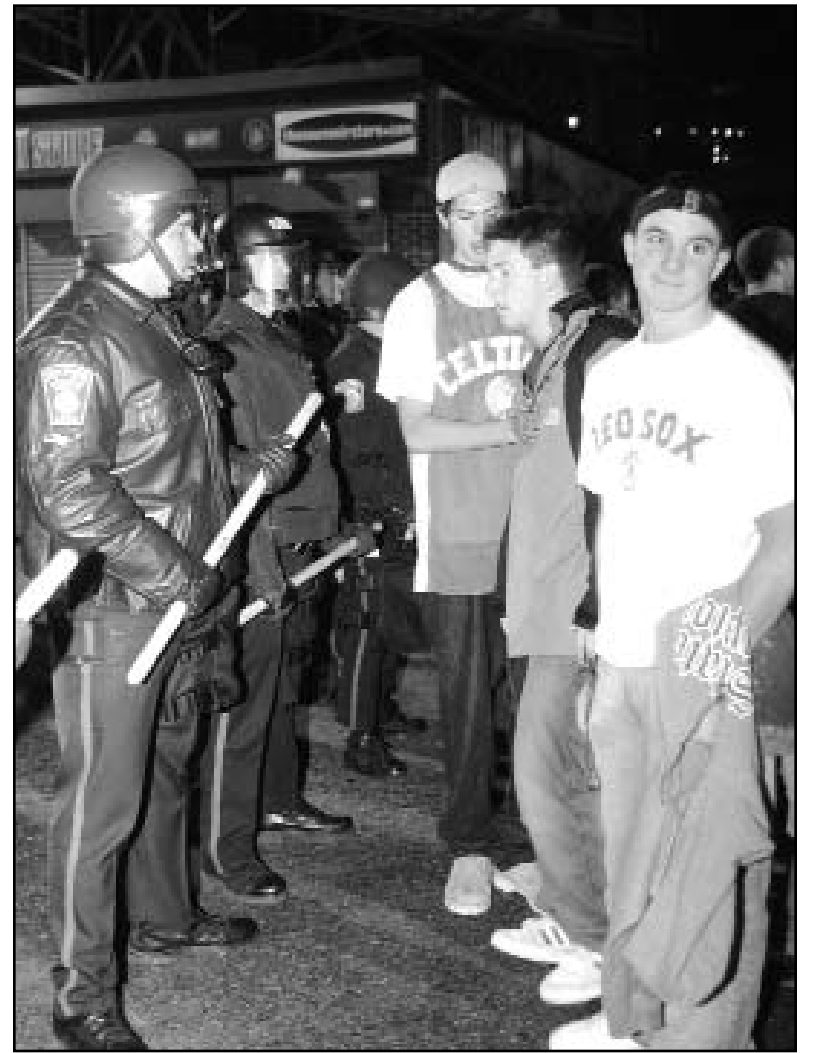
Thousands of people gather in Kenmore Square.

A fan sits atop a traffic light pole moments before he fell, miraculously uninjured, to the pavement.

Boston Police explain to a few Boston University students that they will not be permitted to return to their apartment because of the rioting.



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH



GRANT JORDAN—THE TECH



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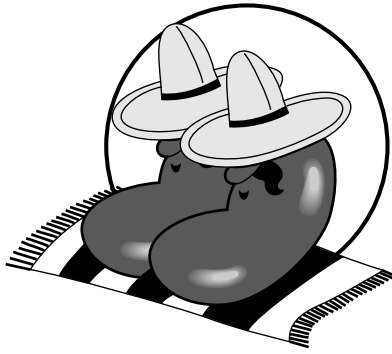


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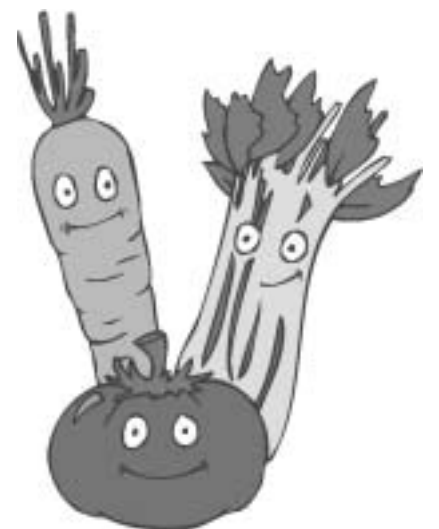


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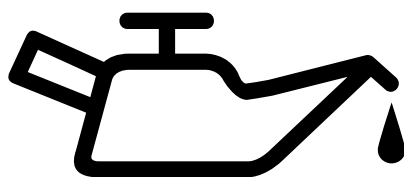
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# Women's Lightweight Improves at Regatta

By Cynthia Lin and Kathleen Yeh  
TEAM MEMBERS

The MIT varsity lightweight women's crew team raced an eight-member boat and a four-member boat in the Head of the Charles last Sunday afternoon, placing eighth and eleventh, respectively.

Despite the threat of rain, there was a great turnout by fans of Tech crew, who stationed themselves at each bridge along the shortened 2.3-mile racecourse.

The team was up against crews from various rowing clubs in the country, as well as the strong collegiate teams of Princeton, Radcliffe, Georgetown, Stanford, Berkeley, Villanova, and Susquehanna.

The varsity eight — Josephine Duh '08 (coxswain), Laura C. Harris '07 (stroke), Kimberly L. Harrison '07, Cynthia Lin '07, Kathleen Yeh '07, Kate Madden '08, Sarah F. Newman '06, Cathy Yao '06, Mary Elizabeth Biszko '08 (bow) — finished with a time of 14:00.809.

Starting two boat lengths behind, Tech not only caught up to UC-Berkeley at the Eliot Bridge, but also proceeded to sprint past them in the last twenty strokes of the race. Of the college lightweight crews, the eight defeated Stanford and UC-Berkeley, and were just behind Princeton and Georgetown, placing eighth out of 16 entries.

The varsity women's four — Batya Fellman '08 (coxswain), Ashley Shurick '06 (stroke), Raffaella Wakeman '08, Katherine Hung '06, Veena G. Ramaswamy '06 (bow) —

finished with 16:32.075, placing eleventh out of 15.

Coach Walter "Buzz" Congram was ecstatic about the team's performance and anticipates a competitive spring season. "I hope that the women who rowed in the eight and the four have some sense from their results on Sunday just how far they have progressed from last year. Both boats had solid rows."

"This weekend's races were so exciting to be a part of. Not only were we able to show how far we have come as a team, but we have also shown that we're competitive with the best lightweight crews out there," said Ramaswamy, this year's lightweight women's captain.

While the women's lightweight program is only in its second year at MIT, the small squad of sixteen rowers and two coxswains is improving dramatically. "The eight moved from the bottom of their event last year to a very competitive position in the middle of the field," said Congram. He expressed excitement that MIT is "beating crews who had beaten them by large margins last year."

Previously this fall, the eight won a gold medal while the four came in fourth place at the Textile River Regatta on Oct. 3. The team followed this race with a solid performance on Oct. 16 at the New Hampshire Championships, being a competitive lightweight crew against many openweight crews. The Tech women are excited about a strong finish to the fall season on Nov. 13 at the Foot of the Charles.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

MIT men's water polo co-captain David D. Lohrey '05 bounces the ball against the water with a powerful slam, leaving the Brown University goalkeeper Jay Fantone helpless to stop it from scoring. Brown University won last Wednesday's match, 7-6, in a sudden death period after MIT was unable to hold on to the lead they created in the first overtime.

# NFC Prospects in the Postseason

By Yong-yi Zhu  
COLUMNIST

Last week we took a look at the contenders and pretenders in the AFC. This week we move to the NFC to those fighting for a playoff spot from those who are merely masquerading as postseason hopefuls.

The top class teams of this conference are clearly the Philadelphia Eagles and the Minnesota Vikings.

The Eagles are perfect, despite having gone into overtime against the Browns. Their offense, behind the combination of quarterback Donovan McNabb and receiver Terrell Owens, has really lit it up. McNabb has the third most passing yards in the conference and boasts a great 105.6 quarterback rating. Terrell Owens is third in the conference in receiving yards and is tops for receiving touchdowns. I guess he can no longer complain about not getting the ball.

On defense, the Eagles are not terrific and that is why they had to go into overtime against a mediocre Cleveland team. They have not yet had much competition, but they have beaten Minnesota and they will face a test in Baltimore this week. The Eagles do benefit greatly from being in a relatively weak division.

Minnesota is looking like the Minnesota we have come to love: no defense, great offense. They have the top offense in the NFC and with QB Daunte Culpepper rolling along the way he does every Sunday, they are tough to stop. They didn't even have Randy Moss last week and they still got 313 net yards on the Tennessee Titans. However, with the third worst defense in the conference,

Minnesota will need all that offense to offset the opponents' scoring.

The NFC is much weaker than the AFC, and their mediocrity was in full show this past weekend. After the big two, the rest of the teams seem to be all on the same plane and all susceptible to being beaten by any team at any time.

We thought a couple of weeks ago that Seattle, St. Louis, Atlanta and New York would be among the top dogs in the NFC. Boy did this past weekend prove us wrong.

The Seattle Seahawks have been in a freefall ever since their loss to St. Louis. They did not have a good showing against the Patriots, and they did not even beat the lowly Cardinals. What a sad turnaround it has been for them.

St. Louis has tried to take advantage of the Seahawk slip, but even they failed to grab a definitive hold on the NFC West when they went numb against the then-winless Miami Dolphins.

Atlanta also stunk it up. They were supposed to have a great rushing defense, but that clearly went out the window when Priest Holmes, Derrick Blaylock, and the rest of the KC Chiefs' Red Sea parted the Falcon defense for eight touchdowns on the ground. On the other side of the ball, Michael Vick was not very effective throwing for seven of 21 with no touchdowns and two interceptions.

In fact, the Falcons needed a tactically bad decision from the San Diego Chargers just to pull out that win, and they almost lost to both the 49ers and the Cardinals.

The Giants are also a back and forth team. You never know what to expect from them. True, their two losses have been to respectable teams in Philly and Detroit, but we just don't know what kind of chutz-

pah is holding that offensive line together and when Kurt Warner is going to lose his touch. But all those uncertainties just mean that Tom Coughlin is a strong coach of the year candidate.

Elsewhere, the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions are fighting for a wild card spot in the playoffs. While the Packers are the team that looks great on paper but horrible during games, the Lions may be the biggest surprise out of the NFC.

The Packers have all the offensive weapons they need in QB Brett Favre (who has suffered from way too many tragedies and difficulties in this past year), running back Ahman Green, Donald Driver, and Javon Walker. In fact, they are second in the NFL in yards per game. They sometimes show flashes of brilliance, as was the case during games against the Colts and Cowboys. Yet in losses to the Bears and Titans, they don't look nearly as strong. But even with a 3-4 record, they made it to the playoffs last year. I look for them to contend with Minnesota for the NFC North.

Then, there are the Lions. Their problem is that they are stacked in a tough division with two strong teams around them. They are talented, though, and with QB Joey Harrington hooking up with wide receiver Roy Williams, they can win any game they play.

Perhaps the Lions are a year premature, but there is nothing wrong with trying to make a playoff push a year too early. Perhaps the lack of pressures on them also helps them play well.

Outside of these teams, and maybe the Saints, the rest of the conference might as well pack it up. Maybe the overall mediocrity of the NFC will keep everyone holding their breath until week 17.

## BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of material resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much electricity is being used in your computer that you're not using? Look at how much water is being wasted in the water cooling system. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash can. We let it all be. Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work.

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## SPORTS

## MIT Women's Soccer Wins 2-1

By Caitlin Murray  
STAFF WRITER

An MIT injury, two Wellesley injuries, a smashed lamp, a bitter referee, 50-degree weather, 19 fouls, and derisive spectators did not dampen the excitement of the soccer game, as MIT ground out a victory 2-1 in overtime against the Wellesley Blue, improving MIT's record to 8-5-4 despite Wellesley's commanding performance throughout the game.

Although Wellesley controlled the ball almost exclusively in the first half, the only point on the board at half time was scored by the Engineers.

Eighteen minutes into the game, after yet another drive into Tech territory by the Blue, Meghan O'Kane '06 headed the ball away from a defender into Wellesley territory to Amy S. Ludlum '08. In what turned out to be MIT's only scoring opportunity of the first half, Ludlum sprinted up the field, dribbled around two defenders lagging at her heels, and as the Wellesley keeper came out to challenge, slipped the ball past her into the opposite corner of the goal.

Despite the screamed exhortations from their coach to "Wake up and play some soccer now!" and 14 shots on goal, the Wellesley Blue could not score on MIT's goalkeeper, Katherine A. Vater '07, who maintained her standing as first in the conference in saves.

Although a bit weaker than during the first half, Wellesley still dominated in the second half. They penetrated Tech territory frequently and managed to maintain possession for long periods of time, keeping the ball in the MIT red zone for up to seven minutes straight. Vater's guard finally gave way under the continuous onslaught, as Wellesley's Satya Twena passed around MIT's Joanna M. Natsios '05 to Erin Freeman, who tapped the ball past a diving Vater to tie the game.

MIT's best chance to score came on a call of unnecessary contact on Wellesley's Twena (after which her wail of "She ran into me!" could be heard in the stands), but they failed to capitalize. MIT doubled their number of shots on goal in the second half, with four total, and managed to maintain the tie into overtime.

The ten minute overtime



MIT midfielder Ashleigh V. Leonard '07 shields the ball from a Springfield College player in a match last Saturday. The Beavers beat the Springfield College Pride 1-0. MIT qualified for the quarter-finals as fourth seed and will play Babson College on Saturday.

looked to be a repeat of the first and second periods, as Wellesley took control for the first three minutes. But by the fourth minute, MIT had found some extra motivation and made more shots on goal in those few minutes than in the entire 45-minute first half. With 50 seconds remaining in overtime, on an Engineer throw in five yards from the goal line, O'Kane launched a short pass into the air in front of the net to Ashleigh V. Leonard '07. Leonard headed the ball high over the head

of the leaping Wellesley goal-tender into the back of the net.

MIT, with a 9-18 all time record against Wellesley, was clearly the weaker team in this match-up, and the victory rests almost solely on the shoulders of Katherine Vater. Vater is first in the conference in saves, and holds the MIT record for the fewest goals allowed in a season. This game was MIT's last game of the regular season. The Engineers will soon begin the first round of conference play-offs.

## Women's Volleyball Strong Going into Title Match

By Travis Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

Women's volleyball defeated Endicott on Monday and Smith on Tuesday, keeping their conference record perfect and setting up a match against Coast Guard this Saturday for the NEWMAC regular season title.

Endicott's 22-match winning streak came to an end as the Engineers swept the Gulls three games to none despite resting three of their starters with nagging injuries.

The Engineers dominated the match from start to finish, trailing for only a brief period at the beginning of

the second game, and finishing with scores of 300-18, 30-28, and 30-21.

Setter Austin Zimmerman '06 and outside hitter Ellen E. Sojka '08 didn't play at all Monday, while another outside hitter Joy N. Hart '07 saw only limited action. This blow was softened because the team does not rely on any one player to lead on or off the court. As Coach Paul Dill puts it, "This is a team of a lot of different players leading in different ways."

It was Amanda J. Morris '08 that filled in extremely well as the setter, totaling 43 assists and leading the team to a .333 hitting percentage, a huge number for volleyball.

Also shining on Monday was Caroline D. Jordan '06, who got 18 kills and two errors in 28 attempts, for an amazing .571 average, to go with 5 aces on just 19 serves. Throw in four blocks and Jordan

## Red Sox's Teamwork Wins the World Series

By Yong-yi Zhu  
STAFF WRITER

Off the bat of Renteria, into the glove of Keith Foulke and to the glove of Mientkiewicz, and the curse was finally over.

## Column

Congratulations to the Boston Red Sox!

After 86 years of pain and torture, the Boston Idiots have finally won the World Series and ended the curse of the Bambino. After completing the best comeback in sports history against the New York Yankees last Wednesday, it seemed inevitable that the Sox would become the World Series champions, and they did in a convincing fashion. They swept the Cardinals and they never trailed in the entire World Series.

In fact, after the last loss to the Yankees in game 3 of the American League Championship Series, the Red Sox began their crusade for the crown, led by "Jesus" Johnny Damon himself, to eight straight victories.

When the Red Sox needed their pitching to step up, the starting pitchers stepped up. The only game the Cardinals were able to score in was Game 1, when the Cards had to come back from a large run deficit early on. After that, the Cardinals, the top offensive team in major league baseball, only scored three more runs the rest of the series.

Curt Schilling, sutured ankle and all, gave up no earned runs in six innings in Game 2. Not only did he give the Sox the solid performance they needed, but he did it at the

expense of his health. Schilling bled Boston red. Pedro Martinez continued the pitching dominance in Game 3. He only gave up three hits, and despite being wild at times, his pitches gave hitters trouble all night long.

Finally, Derek Lowe finished off the Cardinals in Game 4 with his own 3-hit, 7 inning masterpiece. Lowe was never in trouble and pitched comfortably all game long. The bullpen for the Sox was also amazing as everyone delivered in all the key situations. Timlin, Embree, Arroyo, Foulke all brought their best stuff to keep the Cards scoreless.

The hitting of the Red Sox excelled at just the right times this series. After Johnny Damon was ice cold at the plate for almost the entire ALCS, he awoke and led off the World Series with a win-clinching homerun. Mark Bellhorn also homered in the most critical situations during the series. David Ortiz was great offensively, and he did not make a defensive mistake at any point during the series.

Manny Ramirez was on a seventeen-game hitting streak, and his defense through all the doubters helped the Sox, especially in game three. He was awarded the Most Valuable Player for the World Series.

On a night when helicopters buzzed overhead Fenway Park to keep a stranglehold over the rioting, the Sox simply were magnificent. Perhaps the Sox' World Series loss in 1986 was just a sign that the Sox would eventually take 86 years to end their curse of losing. Whatever the reason for the long wait, it has simply made the Red Sox' eventual triumph that much sweeter.

wound up with a team season high in points scored, twenty-five, despite only playing three games.

The way the team stepped up and played well in the absence of some of their prominent players is a testament to the team's chemistry.

"This team dynamic and chemistry is the best we've had in years," Dill said.

That same team dynamic allowed a seamless transition when Zimmerman returned to action the next night for a crucial conference match against Smith, who came into play two games behind MIT at 5-2.

MIT swept Smith in similarly convincing fashion, winning 31-29, 30-20, 30-20. Zimmerman had 51 assists in three games, well above her season average of 11.6 per game. The team hit 64 kills, a season high for three-game matches.

With both MIT and Coast Guard winning Tuesday, the deciding match for the NEWMAC regular season crown will be played Saturday at Coast Guard. The winner also gets to host the finals of the conference tournament, which would be the first weekend of November in Rockwell Cage if MIT wins.

Coast Guard looks tough, compiling an overall record of 25-1 and losing only nine games the entire season. But MIT has had a very challenging schedule and has played in many more competitive matches than Coast Guard, which should give them an edge if the match goes to a fourth and fifth game.

Win or lose against Coast Guard, the Engineers will play the first round of the conference tournament Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in Rockwell cage.



Goalkeeper R. Morgan Mills '05, right, makes a save while colliding with Springfield College's Brandon Szczesniak, center, on Saturday. Mills set an Institute record of 11 consecutive shutouts to help defeat Springfield College, 3-0.



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