



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

As winter approaches, the early twilight catches students and faculty hurrying home.

## Janet Zhou Nominated New UA VP

By Beckett W. Sterner  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Undergraduate Association President Harel M. Williams '05 announced UA Treasurer Janet Y. Zhou '06 as his nomination for UA Vice President today.

"She has been an invaluable resource to the executive board as well as the rest of the UA, and I truly believe that she is the best person for the job," he wrote in an e-mail to the UA Senate and MIT administrators announcing the nomination.

"She has taken it upon herself to step up over the tough past couple of weeks to help me fulfill my duties, as well as fill the gap that existed in the office of the Vice-President," he wrote.

Zhou's nomination will be subject to a confirmation vote by the UA Senate at the UA meeting this Monday, Dec. 6.

## MIT Undergrads Now Able To Serve on MITFCU Board

By Beckett W. Sterner  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For the first time in the history of the MIT Federal Credit Union, undergraduates now qualify to be elected to the Board of Directors of the bank.

The MITFCU Board of Directors will hold an election for three of its nine members next spring, although applicants must contact the board by Dec. 23.

Anyone over the age of 18 who has been a member of the credit union for more than two years at the time of the election, is not delinquent in debts, is not an employee of

## Ocean Eng. to Merge Into Course II in Jan.

By Kelley Rivoire  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Executive Committee of the Corporation voted unanimously to approve the merger of the Department of Ocean Engineering into the Department of Mechanical Engineering, effective January 1, 2005, wrote President Charles M. Vest in an e-mail.

Faculty, however, had expressed both worries about the loss of a strong ocean engineering identity and hopes for a proposed interdepartmental Center for Ocean Science and Technology at a special faculty meeting Monday.

The merger was recommended in August by Dean of the School of Engineering Thomas L. Magnanti, with an ensuing procedural study of the merger being completed last week by a committee chaired by Professor Steven R. Tannenbaum '58.

Vest had said that as he felt it "would be inappropriate to continue" the discussion of the merger

beyond his presidency, and had said he would make the decision this week before incoming President Susan Hockfield takes office on Monday.

### Merger worries faculty members

Henrik Schmidt, acting department head of Ocean Engineering said that faculty were "disappointed by [the] turn of events" that led to Magnanti's recommendation for a merger.

"While the final merger provisions are now acceptable to the Ocean Engineering faculty," provisions from the Aug. 19 recommen-

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## DoD Bars Inquiry on Fraud at Lincoln Lab

By Keith J. Winstein  
SENIOR EDITOR

The Missile Defense Agency has refused to allow MIT to investigate a professor's longstanding allegations of scientific fraud in a Lincoln Laboratory-led study of the military's missile defense system, according to statements released this week by MIT and the Agency, which is part of the Department of Defense.

As a result, MIT will not be able to begin the long-stalled investigation, the Institute said, despite a January 2003 decision by Provost Robert A. Brown that the allegations of scientific misconduct warranted a full investigation.

The Missile Defense Agency said yesterday that it denied MIT's request because the subject matter of the disputed study has already been reviewed by three government agencies. "The multiple reviews by independent government agencies of essentially the same issues coupled with the extreme sensitivity of the information at issue precluded granting MIT's request to use classified information for an internal administrative investigation," the Agency said in a statement.

"If MIT does not have the necessary authority for access to classified information, or can not get it, then MIT has no business running a secret Laboratory that does classified work for the U.S. Government," said Philip E. Coyle III, who was President Clinton's assistant secretary of defense for test and evaluation from 1994 to 2001.

"I don't think MIT can accept that conclusion from the MDA. MIT needs to have the authority to do its own investigation of its own conclusions," said Coyle, who is now with the Center for Defense Information,

an organization critical of the Pentagon's design for national missile defense.

"You just can't oversee the work of a classified research institution without access to the work that they're doing," he said. "MIT should have the necessary classified information and authority to do its job, and its contracts with the federal government should require no less."

### Dispute centers on "POET" study

The disputed study, released in 1999 and known as the "POET" study, concerns the ability of the Pentagon's national missile defense system to tell the difference between actual warheads and balloon decoys in outer space. Critics argue that because warheads and warhead-shaped decoy balloons look so similar in outer space, the military's national missile defense system will not be able to defend effectively against an enemy nation's attack.

Not so, according to the POET study, which was led by MIT's Lincoln Laboratory and included two Lincoln Lab staff scientists among its five authors. The team's report concluded that a system produced by the military contractor TRW was "well designed" and up to the task of distinguishing warheads from decoys, based on the results of a 1997 test.

That conclusion enraged the critics, who say it is inconsistent with the contents of the POET report itself and has been used to white-wash an expensive design for the national missile defense system that will not work against a real attack.

In April 2001, one of the most outspoken critics — Professor

Missile, Page 15



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Laura A. Stuart (left), a Health Educator at MIT Medical, and Samira M. Azarin '06 (right), the MedLinks Liaison Coordinator for Alpha Chi Omega, provide information about AIDS prevention and treatment in Lobby 10. This past Wednesday was the 17th annual World AIDS Day.

### NEWS

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# WORLD & NATION

## Putin Speaks Out Against Repeat of Ukraine Election

By Steven Lee Myers  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KIEV, UKRAINE

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia waded deep into Ukraine's electoral crisis on Thursday, dismissing the challenger's demand for a repeat of the disputed presidential runoff election and criticizing European efforts to mediate.

Putin made his remarks during a meeting with President Leonid D. Kuchma, who made an unexpected trip to Russia even as Ukrainian lawmakers wrangled over the details of holding new elections and the Supreme Court heard arguments to nullify the results of the vote on Nov. 21, which was tainted by allegations of widespread fraud.

The meeting — at an airport outside Moscow as Putin prepared to fly to India for a state visit — came only hours after Kuchma and his chosen successor, Prime Minister Viktor F. Yanukovich, the nominal winner, had met with the Western-leaning challenger, Viktor A. Yushchenko, and with European diplomats. That meeting, on Wednesday night, yielded several agreements designed to settle the increasingly bitter and tense impasse over the runoff.

The election imbroglio has exposed Russia's desire to maintain its influence over its former czarist and Soviet domains. Putin's direct interference underscores his keen desire to keep Ukraine, in particular, Russia's historical and cultural partner, from tipping toward the West and further diminishing Moscow's reach.

## Lesbian Minister Defrocked For Violating Church Law

By Neela Banerjee  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In the second ecclesiastical trial of a gay Methodist minister in less than a year, a jury of 13 clergy in eastern Pennsylvania convicted a fellow pastor of violating church law by living in a lesbian relationship and ordered her defrocked.

The ruling is evidence of the United Methodist Church's efforts this summer to tighten rules banning "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" from the ministry, a step that gained greater urgency after the jury in a trial in Bothell, Wash., last March cleared another lesbian minister of breaking church law.

At the trial in Pughtown, Penn., the jury voted 12-1 against the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud, the associate pastor at Philadelphia's First United Methodist Church of Germantown. It then voted 7-6 to remove her from the ministry.

## Documents Show CIA Knew Of a Coup Plot in Venezuela

By Juan Forero  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

The CIA was aware that dissident military officers and opposition figures in Venezuela were planning a coup against President Hugo Chavez in 2002, newly declassified intelligence documents show. But immediately after the overthrow, the Bush administration blamed Chavez, a left-leaning populist, for his own downfall and denied knowing about the threats.

Long irritated by Chavez's ties to Fidel Castro and his blistering anti-American attacks, the Bush administration provided the Venezuelan government in Caracas with few hard details of the looming plot, although U.S. officials say they broadly talked to Chavez about opposition plans.

Chavez was removed from power on April 12, 2002, after 18 people died in a spate of gunfire during a huge anti-government protest. Taken into custody by dissident military officers, Chavez was spirited out of Caracas while an interim government led by Pedro Carmona, a Caracas businessman, took power.

# Former NY Police Chief New Head of Homeland Security

By Richard W. Stevenson and Christopher Drew  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Bernard B. Kerik, the street-savvy former New York City police commissioner, has been selected by President Bush to replace Tom Ridge as secretary of homeland security, a senior administration official and associates of Kerik said Thursday.

Kerik has been offered the job, created after the Sept. 11 attacks that hit New York and the Pentagon and took a significant toll on the city's fire department and his police force, and has accepted, the associates said. The senior administration official said the formal announcement would be made Friday.

Word of his selection came on another busy day of comings and goings in the administration as Bush remakes his team for a second term. The president nominated Mike Johanns, the governor of Nebraska, to be agriculture secretary, replacing Ann M. Veneman, who resigned last month.

John C. Danforth, the U.S. delegate to the United Nations, disclosed that he would step down after only six months in the job, citing personal reasons. And a Repub-

lican with ties to the White House said he expected Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary of health and human services, to announce his resignation within days, with Thompson most likely to be replaced by Mark B. McClellan, the administrator of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Thompson would be the eighth Cabinet secretary to leave since Election Day, part of what has become a wholesale reshaping of the administration and an effort by Bush to rejuvenate its ranks for policy and political battles in the next four years.

Assuming he is confirmed by the Senate, Kerik would take on the job of running the Department of Homeland Security, established by Congress two years ago out of 22 existing agencies to bolster domestic defenses against terrorism.

Ridge, who announced Tuesday that he intended to step down by Feb. 1, was widely credited with getting the department up and running and beginning to focus its 180,000 employees more intently on improving security.

But many Democrats and some outside analysts said Ridge had not done enough to fight for bigger bud-

gets or to secure chemical and nuclear plants and ports. During Ridge's tenure, the administration frequently came under criticism from the New York congressional delegation and elected officials from other parts of the country for not allocating money for security projects where it was needed most. Kerik's selection was welcomed by elected officials from New York.

Kerik, 49, is a sharp departure from the usual button-downed mold of Bush appointees.

He dropped out of high school, enlisted in the Army and worked as a private security guard in Saudi Arabia and a jail warden in Passaic County, N.J. In 1985, he joined the New York City Police Department, becoming an undercover narcotics officer who sported a ponytail and diamond earrings when he worked the streets. He went on to run the New York City Corrections Department, where he established a reputation as an energetic reformer, before taking over as police commissioner in 2000.

Now a partner in Giuliani's consulting firm, Kerik campaigned this year for Bush. A spokeswoman for the firm said Kerik was not available for comment.

# Report Says Giambi Admitted Use of Steroids to Grand Jury

By Tyler Kepner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Three years ago, Jason Giambi was the New York Yankees' great hope, a strapping slugger who joined them for \$120 million and the promise of extraordinary production for the next seven years.

Now, Giambi is a broken player and a burden to the Yankees, who may try to take action against him in the wake of a damaging report on Thursday in The San Francisco Chronicle that he illegally used steroids. The Chronicle quoted what it said was Giambi's testimony before a federal grand jury, which is secret.

After learning of the report on Thursday morning, the Yankees almost immediately met with the

commissioner's office. According to an official who was briefed on the meeting, the Yankees are seeking financial relief from the \$82 million they owe Giambi over the next four seasons.

Randy Levine, the Yankees' president, met for more than an hour with Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president for labor relations and human resources. Howard Rubenstein, a spokesman for George Steinbrenner, the Yankees' principal owner, released a brief statement on Levine's behalf that was notable in not offering any support of Giambi.

"We have met with the commissioner's office today and will continue to work with them to obtain all the facts in this matter," Levine said

in the statement. "We have made no decisions and will keep all of our options open."

The Chronicle said it had reviewed a transcript of Giambi's testimony on Dec. 11, 2003, before the grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, without saying how it obtained the transcript. The article said that Giambi told the grand jury that he took several steroids, including human growth hormone, which he injected into his stomach, and testosterone, which he injected into his buttocks.

The Chronicle said that Giambi was told he would face perjury charges if he lied to the grand jury but would be granted immunity from prosecution if he did not.

# WEATHER

## Flurries and then Some Clouds

By Roberto Rondanelli  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A relatively weak low pressure is making its way towards our area and some precipitation is expected for today. Although temperatures will remain over 0°C it is likely that we will have some flurries. In any case do not expect a recreation of the snowstorm of mid November. After the passage of the low pressure, relatively colder air will take over the region and temperatures during Saturday will remain mostly in the 30s. Saturday night looks particularly cold. The rest of the forecast period appears dry, although Monday evening through Tuesday has to be watched carefully. At the time of this forecast, an active storm is depicted in some of the numerical weather prediction models. If this system keeps its strength over the next days, it can bring a few inches of rain over our region. Stay tuned for Tuesday forecast.

### Extended Forecast:

**Today:** Cloudy with periods of rain and possibly snow. High 40°F (4°C)

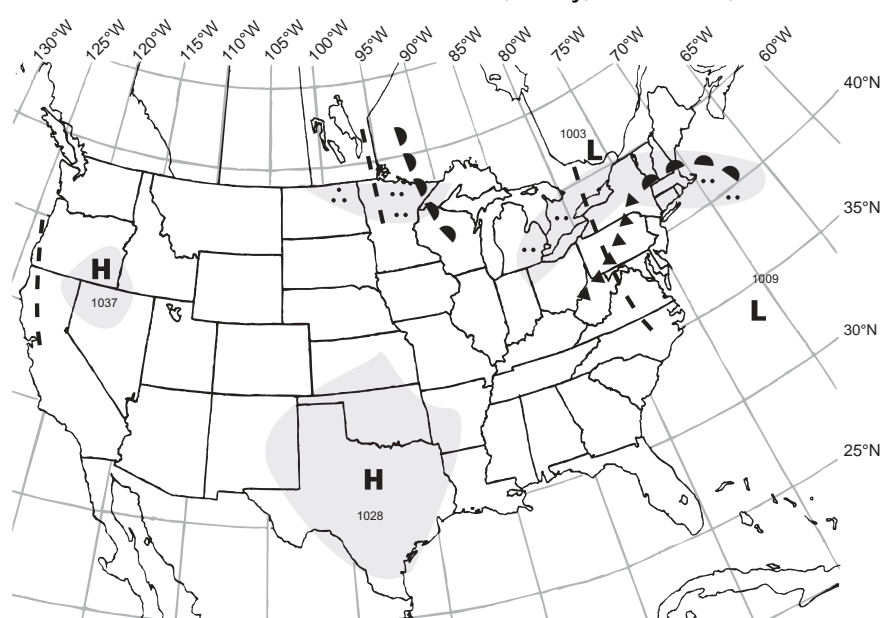
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. Low 28°F (-2°C)

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy. High 40°F (4°C)

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy. Low 31°F (-1°C). High 48°F (9°C)

**Monday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Low 31°F (-1°C). High 50°F (10°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, December 3, 2004



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

Compiled by MIT  
Meteorology Staff  
and The Tech

# Colleges Add More Counseling Amid Student Suicide Increase

By Karen W. Arenson  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Increasingly, college officials and mental health experts have come to realize that many of the students prone to self-injury and suicide never go near counseling centers or reveal anything about their experience before college.

As a result, colleges are stepping up efforts to find those students at risk and to get them into treatment, sometimes even forcing them to go home.

The goal is to help students, but colleges have more at stake. Suicide — the second-biggest cause of death on campuses after accidents — can be costly, injuring reputations and prompting litigation.

The suicide of Elizabeth Shin, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in 2000, and strings of suicides at New York University, George Washington University and the University of Illinois, have drawn wide attention.

There has been an increase in lawsuits against colleges in cases of student suicides as well.

Ann H. Franke, a vice president of United Educators, which insures 1,200 universities, colleges and schools, said suicide-related claims have risen; her company, she said, now has a "handful" of claims, up from none six years ago.

"They can be very severe claims financially," Franke said, "not to

mention the emotional and reputational impact they can have on a school."

Mental health experts say they believe the rate of suicides among college students has been steady for years — about 1,100 a year, or about 7.5 per 100,000 students, which is actually lower than the rate for young adults not in college. But the numbers are based on a study of a dozen universities in the 1980s, and experts say reports of suicides do not always reflect students who commit suicide off campus.

But the best way to reach these students remains unclear, and students do not always welcome the intervention.

# Big Dig Managers Consider Fund For Repairs, Apologize for Flaws

By Raphael Lewis  
and Sean P. Murphy  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Top executives of the company managing the Big Dig, testifying at a packed State House hearing Thursday, apologized for lapses that led to a massive leak in the Interstate 93 northbound tunnel wall on Sept. 15, and agreed to consider the creation of an unusual escrow fund to pay for future leak repairs.

The conciliatory remarks constituted the first admission of a major mistake by Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff since engineering work began on the project two decades ago.

In addition to the apology, Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff chairman John MacDonald said the firm

would pay, along with the construction firms involved, for the cost of repairing the wall damaged by the September leak, and made the same pledge to cover the bill for inspecting thousands of additional wall panels for possible flaws in coming weeks.

"We apologize for our mistakes," MacDonald said of the leak, which occurred in a section of the tunnel wall that Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff engineers knew to be structurally flawed when it was built in 1999.

MacDonald expressed openness to the establishment of the escrow fund, proposed by Senator Steven A. Baddour, cochairman of the Legislature's Joint Transportation

Committee, which held the hearings. Baddour is pushing for the fund to make sure that money is available to continue leak repairs even after Bechtel Corp. of San Francisco and Parsons Brinckerhoff of New York leave town when construction of the Big Dig is complete next year.

Thursday's testimony, unlike so many past State House appearances by Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff executives throughout the long and controversial history of the \$14.6 billion project, was a stark departure for a company that repeatedly insisted that it has "met or exceeded its contractual obligations" in all regards, despite massive cost overruns and construction delays.

## Swiss Firm Suspected of Fraud Paid U.N. Chief's Son \$50,000

By Judith Miller  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Swiss company that is being investigated on suspicion of fraud and abuses in the United Nations' oil-for-food program paid the son of Secretary-General Kofi Annan more than \$50,000 for consulting at U.N. meetings and other projects in the year it won an oil-for-food contract, investigators said Thursday.

Representatives of the company, Cotecna Inspection Services, based in Geneva, previously said that Kojo Annan, the secretary-general's son, had no involvement in any U.N. contracts.

But billing records from Kojo Annan, 29, and other documents provided by Cotecna to House and Senate committees investigating the U.N. program show that in 1998, he traveled to U.N. meetings in New York and South Africa to develop "contacts" and work on unspecified "specific projects." In December 1998, Cotecna, which is privately held, won a \$4.8 million U.N. contract to monitor goods shipped to Iraq.

The trips were reported Thursday in The New York Post.

Ginny Wolfe, a spokeswoman for Cotecna, confirmed that Kojo Annan had attended these meetings but said that he had done so "to make contacts and build relationships with individuals who were important to know for purposes of Cotecna business marketing in Africa."

A Cotecna statement said it was "confident" that the inquiries "will reveal that Cotecna's actions were at all times ethical, lawful and professional."

## Random Violence Continues In Iraq

By Robert F. Worth  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Mortar rounds exploded in five places in central Baghdad on Thursday morning, killing two Iraqis and wounding 14 in disparate attacks that underscored the capital's vulnerability to insurgent violence as the January elections approach.

The attacks, breaking a period of relative calm in Baghdad, coincided with continuing violence in other parts of the country. In the northern city of Mosul, an American soldier was killed in a gunbattle on Thursday afternoon, said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, a military spokesman. American and Iraqi forces there discovered 14 bodies, including three wearing uniforms of the Iraqi National Guard.

The new bodies bring to at least 90 the number found in and around Mosul in the last two weeks, many of them Iraqi police and national guard officers killed by insurgents aiming to intimidate the country's fledgling security forces.

In Baiji, an oil refining city in northern Iraq repeatedly struck by insurgent sabotage, two American soldiers and two Iraqi national guardsmen were wounded when a car bomb exploded at a national guard checkpoint on Thursday morning, said Master Sgt. Robert Cowens, a spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division.



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## Letters To The Editor

### Tech Shouldn't Sell Out

I'm dismayed at the number of RIAA/MPAA ads in *The Tech* recently. These ads are little more than propaganda. By printing them, *The Tech* is propagating their distorted views on copyright. Perhaps *The Tech* should instead focus on educating MIT students, faculty and staff about the impending RIAA/MPAA-funded legislation being silently rushed through Congress. In my opinion,

because it is impossible to protect digital content, any business model that relies solely upon the protection of digital material is bunk. The MPAA/RIAA are prime examples of Luddites of the Internet age, gasping for their final breaths. Unfortunately, they are dragging everybody down with them. The effects may be long lasting, especially if they continue to successfully bank roll senators like Orrin Hatch (Utah-R) into corrupting our laws and protecting their antiquated business models. Music/movie piracy will eventually shake-up and redistribute the power in the content indus-

tries. Someone, probably from our generation, will get creative and figure out how to make money in this new age. Hopefully this happens before our rights have disappeared.

*The Tech* shouldn't accept MPAA money without presenting some kind of alternative view (or, at least, without pointing out the hypocrisy of the RIAA/MPAA suing its own customers). Here is one suggestion: *The Tech* should take the money from the ad and give it into an organization that is fighting for our rights as consumers.

Dan Roy G

### Opinion Policy

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

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

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

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

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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

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# Reading the Whole Bible

Ken Nesmith

Are we a religious nation? Certainly our politics would suggest so. Candidates must be considered religious to be viable. Moral values are the big post-election story (for little to no good reason, since fewer people voted on them than in 2000 or 1996).

Our focus on the form and not the substance of religion is curious. John Kerry adopted a common stance by declaring that life begins at conception, but concurrently supporting abortion rights because he shouldn't force his views on the whole nation. The position is untenable: if life begins at conception, then preventing the taking of that life is a matter of preventing murder. Should he not wish to force his views on the rest of the nation, he would also presumably decline to force his view that, say, murder and theft among adults should be illegal. Such is the danger of selective religiosity.

Whole hog religiosity isn't better. Bush and his team take great inspiration from the literal word of the Bible. That's how we, know, for instance, that homosexuality is an abomination - Leviticus says so. But interpreting the Bible literally causes lots of trouble. "I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states that he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?" asks a forwarded email ostensibly addressed to Mr. Bush, looking for clarification on other Bible passages. "Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Leviticus 19:27. How should they die?" No homosexuality, no Sunday work, no hair cuts. With what are we left?

"My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev.

19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them (Lev. 24:10-16)? Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws (Lev. 20:14)?"

While this was more entertaining than the usual spam, and while it's easy to poke fun at the Old Testament, it's not very constructive, and doesn't address the reality that so many people in America - smart people, powerful people, regular people - take fundamentalist Christianity very seriously.

The "Left Behind" series, about the events in the Book of Revelation actually happening, comprise the best selling books in the nation. The authors, Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, are very rich. But even though the Bible asks them to give away all of their belongings to gain entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven (Luke 12:33, Luke 14:33, Matthew 6:19-21, etc.), they haven't. In fact, a great many evangelical Christians control vast sums of wealth. Their heeding of Biblical law is intensely selective.

That selectivity is a common feature of global faith. Zealots in Israel justify clearing (of people) and settlement of lands they don't own by Biblical command, but ignore passages asking them to share with their neighbors. Muslims pick and choose passages from the Koran to follow, often (but not always) ignoring ones that directly order

physical domination or destruction of non-Muslims. The Catholic Church manages to forget about Jesus' endless admonitions to love one's neighbor, turn the other cheek, and renounce violence with its extensively developed "Just War" theory, which doesn't pass the common sense test. Can you imagine Jesus loading up his machine gun and gunning down soldiers on a battlefield?

Recall the full horrors of war, even Just wars, and imagine Jesus undertaking each of them. That would have to be a viable scenario under just-war theory.

Most selectivity and religious theory exist simply because they are able to exist. Those practices and beliefs

that are not able to exist, do not. This is tautological, but informative and revealing in examining the contemporary state of religion. Some religious sects put restrictions on procreation so stringent that they soon fell out of existence - hence, those stringent restrictions are not widespread. If Biblical passages advocating the complete abandonment of property and life were followed at their word, practitioners of those ways would not thrive and spread their beliefs effectively. If Jesus' teachings were followed to their word, war would never be an option. But the ongoing existence of Christianity on earth depended on violence (sometimes in self-defense, sometimes in conquest). A practice more fully consistent with Biblical texts would have the faithful dying peacefully, in accordance with the Word, and accepting eternal life in Heaven rather than invoking the full of misery of

war to preserve their earthly lives and power.

Of course, those that have done so are no longer around to readily tell us about it. The ones who survive to bear ongoing witness on earth are those who selectively interpret and bend the rules to meet the needs of ongoing earthly existence. They become competitive, power-seeking agents. When faced with the dire threats of communism and Nazism, the Catholic Church itself made some unfortunate moral compromises during World War II regarding the Holocaust.

Be it the accurate teachings of Jesus or not, what remains today is a dominant element of American culture, for better or worse. There are times when intense national religiosity can be frustrating. But maybe it's not as bad as it can look. Alexis de Tocqueville thought national religious character a necessary part of democracy - maybe this intense religiosity gives shape and a form of coherence to a nation of... heterogeneous thinkers. Maybe.

That question (and my amateur theologizing) aside, in the face of occasional national stupidity such as not teaching about evolution, it's important to remember that things probably aren't much different than they used to be: the Church isn't the government, as it was way back in the day, or is now in much of the Muslim world. Reaching more recently back in history, we don't burn witches at stake, so we're making progress there. Generally, the worst irrationalism we see today was certainly as or more common in days gone by. It's nothing new.

The moral character of a nation is in constant flux. If we condemn ourselves to legislating religion in the Constitution and sanctioning it in the courts, that's sincerely, truly unfortunate. Indications are that the younger generations, future stewards of the nation, are less prone to tolerate such things; this is a rare encouraging bit of data.

*Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Leviticus 19:27. How should they die?*

## Shooting Craps for Social Programs

Ruth Miller

The word "gambling" conjures a number of negative images. Gambling has a rich history, full of ties to organized crime. Animal cruelty (horse and dog races, cock fighting) has united a lot of people against these so-called "sports." There's also the more annoying side of gambling, waiting behind a line of people buying lottery tickets at a gas station, which is less immoral, but detrimental nonetheless.

Overall, gambling seems to be pretty destructive. A few people may have the self-control necessary to stop, and a few more may have the skill necessary to succeed, but overall, gambling just preys on peoples' weaknesses. Casinos and lotteries are no better than the tobacco industry. Plus, as Alan Keyes' Web site will tell you, the vice of gambling is usually accompanied by prostitution and drinking. Few things are as immoral, yet as socially accepted, as gambling.

All this being said, gambling is really, really popular. Flashy lights, huge jackpots, and big crowds always accompany casinos and lotteries. Online gambling and the rising popularity of poker have brought gambling to a new echelon of availability and esteem. In fact, gambling is so popular that many states run their own lotteries. The notion of creating state-run casinos has even been raised.

Wait, this is more than just silent consent. How can the government sponsor such

an immoral act? Additionally, because gambling is disproportionate to the lower socioeconomic classes, isn't the government targeting poorer families by making available so many opportunities to gamble?

That has got to be the most ridiculous argument ever made. Yes, the government is discriminating against you because you're a compulsive gambler. It's not your fault your welfare check (which the government gave you) is going into a state-run lottery. Nothing is ever your fault.

Back in the day, when Zell Miller was a Democrat, he started one of the finest programs ever established. He created the HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) Scholarship. The HOPE Scholarship covers the costs of post-secondary tuition, certain fees, and a stipend for books. What does it take to get HOPE? Every Georgia resident attending an in-state public college with a 3.0/4.0 GPA or better is awarded this scholarship.

Imagine: your family can't afford to send you to college, so you keep up your grades, and the state pays for you to go to school. In Georgia, this scenario has been played out countless times since 1993 to the tune of

\$1.5 billion. Ninety-five percent of the current freshman class at the University of Georgia is on the HOPE Scholarship. These aren't the legacies and trust fund kids receiving the scholarships; these are the people that are willing to work. The mean SAT score of accepted students rose from 1168 in 1992 to 1215 in 2002. Students have turned down Harvard to stay closer to home, and this

enriches the academic program beyond quantitative measure. Colleges across the state have expanded and become more competitive, with no signs of stopping.

Where did this \$1.5 billion come from? The Georgia lottery. The Georgia lottery also funds a pre-kindergarten program for all

four-year-olds, as well as technological upgrades for schools, technical institutes, colleges, and universities across the state.

All this was funded by the so-called "poor tax" of a state-run lottery. The argument has been made repeatedly that this system unfairly taxes the poor, who comprise a disproportionately large portion of gamblers.

What demographic do you think stands to benefit the most from programs such as HOPE? If a person would rather buy lottery tickets than save money for their own child's post-secondary education, consider the lottery to be an investment account. The lottery is better than an investment account. No one is required to put money into it, but, if they're willing to study, anyone can take money out of it.

Other states have similar common benefits tied to their lottery systems. Few states have a scholarship system similar to HOPE, or as my dad said when I turned down my last in-state school: "there's no HOPE in Massachusetts." Many states do have other public good programs. In the State of Massachusetts, 23 percent of the lottery ticket sales go directed to the Local Aid Fund, which sends money back to communities in need.

Now, to the issue of state-run casinos. Should the government condone gambling? It already does. How is allowing a private casino to operate any different than running one of your own? Judging by the assumption that private casinos are morally acceptable to the public, what makes a government casino any less moral? Does it really matter who's behind the table?

Private casinos generate money for a few individuals, while a government casino would be generating revenue to help the very people playing poker and shooting craps. Is it right to condone gambling if the winnings go back to the people that lost them?

*Yes, the government is discriminating against you because you're a compulsive gambler. It's not your fault your welfare check (which the government gave you) is going into a state-run lottery. Nothing is ever your fault.*



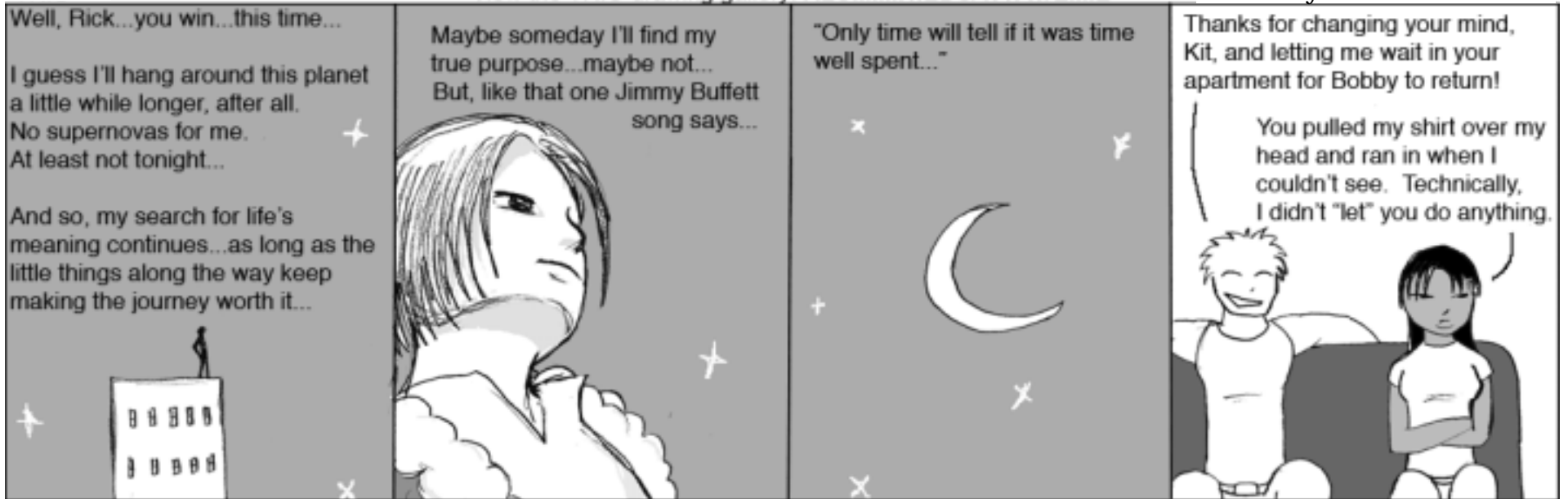
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## Trio

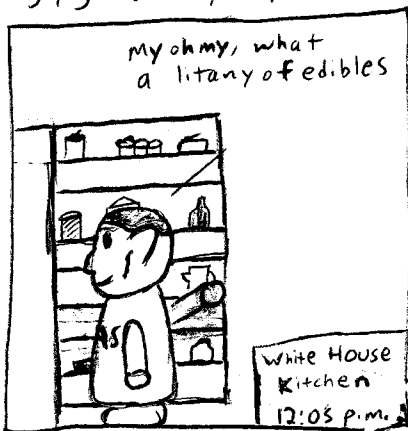
View the TRIO drawing gallery: [ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE](http://ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE)

by Emezie Okorafor

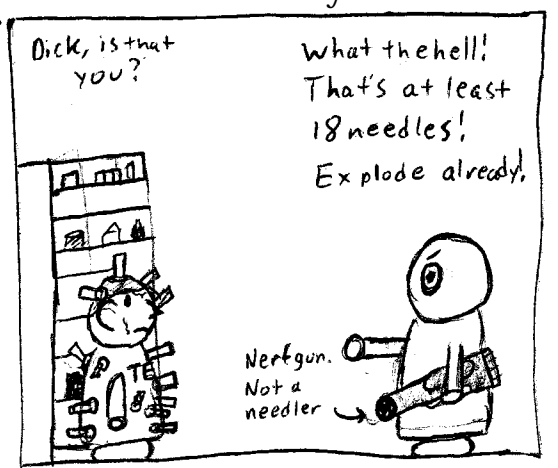


## Red(states) vs. Blou X IV

### 343 Guilty Spark and The Reclaimer



Think-Think-thunk-thunk! Pick!  
Tink! WHOO! Chick!  
Chick-chick clack!  
Plow...plowplow! Thud! POW!  
Shoo! BAMBLAM!  
THOONK! THUNKA! BOOM!  
HYAAAAH! Get some!  
Thoom! Shik! Thunka!

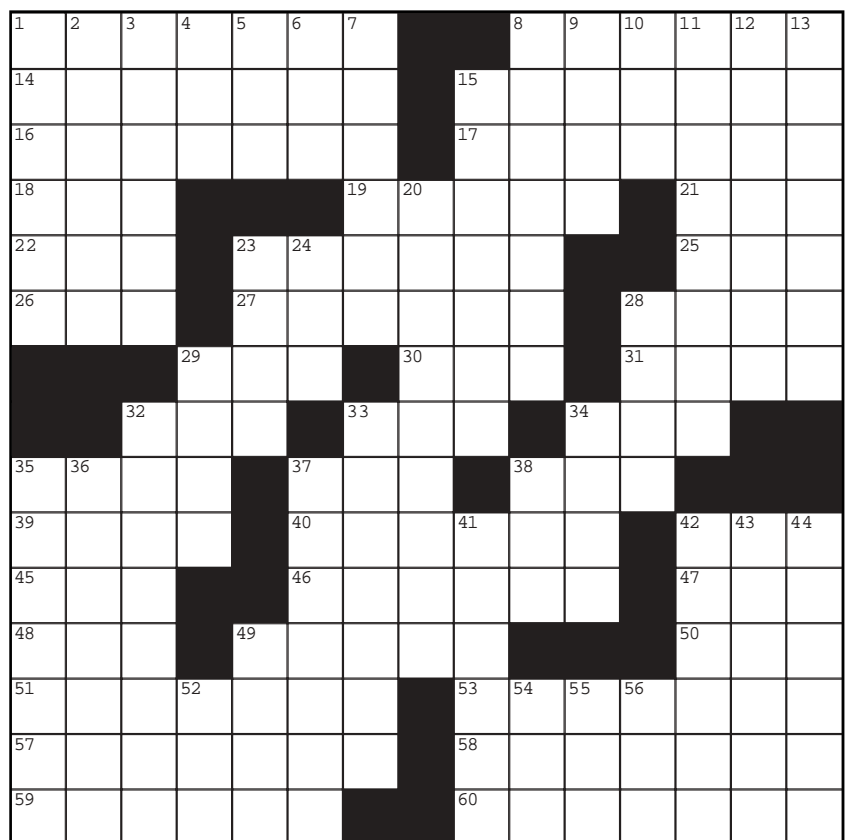


by Brian Loux

## Dot Products

By Dan P. Corson  
Solution, page 8

- Across**
- Write carefully: 3 wds.
  - Precisely: 3 wds.
  - Organ ruptures
  - E-\_\_: online diversion?
  - \_\_ Set (metal construction toy)
  - Indian bean tree
  - Preserves
  - "Not \_\_\_\_ in the world"
  - Parking place
  - Eggs
  - Ancient paper sheets
  - Door, in Dresden
  - Make verboten
  - An empty, to a trayless smoker
  - Swing singer Christian
  - Pair carrier
  - IDE HDs over 137.4 GB
  - Summit
  - Preceding period
  - 19x19 games
  - Tritones?
  - DOS extended memory access std.
  - The Joker fall-breaker
  - Trouble
  - Eye color area
  - Compilation woes
  - Structured coding acronym
  - Write
  - Equator-flanker
  - Normal hair?
  - A letter to mind?
  - Oder river branch
  - Kubrik comp.
  - Pistol or billiards, e.g.
  - Defunct golf club
  - Actor Cage
  - Actress Warren
  - Lavish with affection: 2 wds.
  - Umlaut: 2 wds.
  - Mini summits
  - Adopt a cause
  - Printers of yore
  - Egyptian beetles
  - Building 44
  - Trim excess
  - "Just \_\_\_\_" (library motto)
  - The pokey
  - Some comp. movies
  - Romanian poet Mihai
  - Rooms under roofs
  - Assorted abbr.
  - Ice cream of the future constituent: 2 wds.
  - Before-its-time baby
  - Old soldier
  - Ex White House press secretary
  - Did a Ruy Lopez, e.g.
  - The Haunting \_\_\_\_ House
  - Matrix character
  - Fabric pattern constituent: 2 wds.
  - Mallet game
  - IMAP alternative
  - Standards org.
  - 1.055 kJ
  - Beirut pl.
- Down**
- Work: 3 wds.
  - Indian tribe Panjeri
  - Metal worker
  - Chapel Hill sch.
  - Slower, in mus.
  - Mau's \_\_\_\_ Valley State Park
  - Six-winged angel
  - Zelda instrument
  - Rapper Dogg
  - FL airport



This space donated by The Tech

**If you had any brains at all, you'd be aware of the threat of depression.**

Depression is a suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone. It can make life unbearable, but it is also readily, medically treatable. And that's something you should always keep in mind.

#1 Cause of Suicide  
**UNTREATED DEPRESSION**

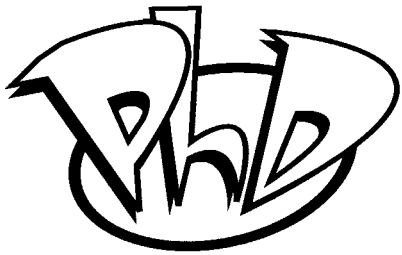
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PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



**FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

**Dilbert**® by Scott Adams

**KRT Crossword**

Solution, page 13

- ACROSS  
 1 Doorway element  
 5 Seeps  
 10 Tater  
 14 Met highlight  
 15 Plants of a region  
 16 Jason's ship  
 17 Ultimate test  
 19 Bagel center  
 20 Cost to participate  
 21 Medicinal plants  
 22 Love of golf  
 23 King in "The Tempest"  
 25 Swiss river  
 26 Edit again  
 32 Too  
 35 Rye grass  
 36 Genetic info carrier  
 37 Words of denial  
 39 Bell and Barker  
 40 Blotch  
 42 Punter's digit  
 43 Rises  
 46 \_\_\_ and crafts  
 47 Prints incantations  
 50 Stretches the truth  
 51 Passageways  
 55 Dupes

- 57 Low cards  
 60 In the style of  
 61 Woodwind instrument  
 62 Lawyer's practice  
 64 Jet black  
 65 Bizarre  
 66 Singer James  
 67 Tillis and Torme  
 68 Intended  
 69 \_\_\_-in-the-wool
- DOWN  
 1 Tel Aviv-\_\_\_  
 2 Disney's mermaid  
 3 "Rebel Without a Cause"  
 co-star  
 4 Ovine comment  
 5 Remove cargo  
 6 Miscellany  
 7 Distinct region  
 8 Periods  
 9 First name of 3D  
 10 Largest desert  
 11 Dry food  
 12 Wrinkled fruit  
 13 Accomplishes  
 18 Secure with a cord

- 22 Arlene and Roald  
 24 Sgts., e.g.  
 25 Poker bullet  
 27 Designates  
 28 Get a hold on  
 29 Follow  
 30 Minute pest  
 31 Corn units  
 32 Picnic problem  
 33 Circle  
 34 Scouring aid  
 38 Leers at  
 41 Religious gathering  
 44 CIA forerunner  
 45 Short theatrical offering  
 48 Tablecloths and sheets  
 49 Inventory  
 52 Nonclerics  
 53 Fill with high spirits  
 54 Vegetable concoction  
 55 Nursery rhyme or sonnet  
 56 Notre Dame cleric  
 57 False alternative  
 58 Rudner or Moreno  
 59 Work for  
 62 Smothers or Kite  
 63 Buttons of Hollywood

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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67				68					69			

Think you're funny? Write comics for *The Tech!*

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# Goal of Merger Provisions to Support OE

Merger, from Page 8

## Course 13 seen as "fragile"

Magnanti said that the merger was the result of not only low undergraduate enrollment, but also fragility and lack of direction within the department.

At present, he said, there are 16 faculty members within Course 13, two of whom are naval officers, and four of whom hold significant administrative positions, leaving only ten tenure-track faculty in research and teaching.

In addition, he said, the department lacks a critical mass of faculty in certain key areas, leading to concerns about the future of the department.

The last visiting committee, he said, found that the "department is at a crisis point."

The merger would not be "a cost-saving measure" or "for recouping space," Magnanti said.

He said that although as a result of the merger, "we will realize some administrative savings," these savings would then go toward the merged department.

Magnanti also said that the merger does not signal similar action for other small departments: "clearly MIT has a place for small departments," he said, and currently, no other organizational changes planned.

Magnanti said that the merger

has the potential to "create a more vibrant ocean engineering community" within the competing needs and resources of the MIT community.

He said the merger would lead to a "larger critical mass of faculty in certain" key areas and he anticipates an undergraduate track in Mechanical Engineering replacing the Course 13 program would draw more students.

Magnanti said that the "School of Engineering is organized around large departments," and that it is "harder for a small department to function."

## Many provisions in merger

Magnanti recommended the merger to President Vest and Provost Brown on Aug. 19, providing provisions on Aug. 31, he said.

Among these provisions were new junior track faculty positions in ocean engineering, graduate programs with named degrees in 13A and 13W, the option for students in Course 13 to complete their degrees or transfer to the merged department, an extra seat on the Engineering Council for the merged department for at least two years, retention of the present space occupied by ocean engineering at the time of the merger, a tenure process for faculty in the department based on merit, not size, and a committee to be formed by the provost in five years to report to the faculty on the merg-

er. The head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, Professor Rohan Abeyaratne, added extra provisions over the next five years, including an additional provisional head in the department, two seats on the Mechanical Engineering council for ocean engineering faculty, and additional funding from the Magnanti's office for ocean engineering laboratories.

## Merger plans began in 2002

The original committee formed to examine the merger, the Ocean Engineering Review Committee, was convened in Sept. 2002 to assess the department and examine the "merits of making Ocean Engineering a sub-unit of another department," said Magnanti.

The committee interviewed approximately 135 students, faculty, and alumni, and expressed concern about the small undergraduate and faculty size, leading to an inefficient use of faculty and resources. The committee also found that the department lacked a long-term vision and plan, Magnanti said.

The committee made several possible recommendations, the two primary of which were: to appoint a committee to explore a merger with another department or to keep Ocean Engineering as a stand-alone department, but integrate the undergraduate program with another depart-

ment, Magnanti said.

Magnanti chose to explore the first alternative, appointing the second committee in Aug. 2003 to determine "which merger [would] best serve the interests of the institute," he said.

This second committee found "no insurmountable educational or research obstacles" for merging Ocean Engineering with Aeronautics and Astronautics or Mechanical Engineering, said Magnanti. Mechanical Engineering was chosen with condition to pursue the merger, and both departments voted to pursue the merger with certain set of conditions (though each department's set was different), Magnanti said.

A third committee was then formed "to define a collective set of expectations" and structure, Magnanti said.

The committee suggested a number of recommendations, including continued support of the 13A and 13W programs, and a new 2A degree with speciality in ocean engineering. This new SB would include five ocean engineering classes, compared with ten in the current Course 13 degree. The number of graduate programs would also be under consideration for a reduction from eight to four. The merger would also commit to faculty renewal in ocean engineering, maintaining the current size for ten years, Magnanti said.

## The Production Department's

## Word of the Day

Epiphany: A usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something  
*(rhymes with Tiffany)*

[join@tt.mit.edu](mailto:join@tt.mit.edu)

# Community Crafts Fill Lobby 10 to Welcome Holidays



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

The Tech Community Crafters annual Holiday Craft Sale, sponsored by the Women's League, was held last Thursday in Lobby 10. The sale featured a plethora of handcrafted festive goods. Clockwise from top left:

Kayla D. Jacobs '06 and Holli M. Rachall '08 stop at the Storyteller Jewelry table.

Melike Yersiz '07 looks through a collection of New England storyteller Raelinda Woad's unique pins shaped like miniature books. The covers of the pins are decorated with enchanting reliefs and stones frosted with glass and hold a complete, original story inside.

Passersby check out a stand of poinsettias.

# CAMPUS LIFE

## Ravings of a Madman L is Real 2004

By Philip Burrowes

STAFF WRITER

A couple Sundays ago, I traded in my GameBoy for Nintendo's new handheld system, the DS. Despite my adoration of the GameBoy's resemblance to a two way pager, as a Nintendo stalwart it's my obligation to support the company in its new endeavor, lest it go the way of Virtual Boy. Plus its built-in stylus allows me to pretend I'm taking notes instead of aiming Samus' arm-cannon, a more utile camouflage than text-messaging.

With some good press during the Christmas season, I hoped it could be Nintendo's iPod. Both are egregiously expensive but elegantly designed portable products of a once dominant but now marginalized consumer electronics company. To that end I also decided to abuse my extensive journalistic integrity by giving it a glowing review.

Unfortunately for you, my dear reader [sic], this is not it.

Too many things got in the way for me to doctor a believable criticism because I haven't had the time to actually play the thing much. Despite the fact that only one of my classes has an exam during finals week, all my professors are giving term-ending tests with cumulative content. Not because they're evil, or breaking the rules, or anything like that. Most of them believe they're doing the class a favor by giving us a final in-class, since they don't realize everybody else employs the same strategy. When you let them know the truth, they earnestly listen before resolving to do nothing about it.

Home isn't any better. Theoretically that should be because I'm studying for class, but if I were that type of person I wouldn't be

super senior, now would I? No, I get distracted by TV lounges. Seth you idiot, stop making moves on Summer! All the goodwill you engendered for comic-book geeks last season is being chipped away with each of your schemes to get her back. If I wanted to watch a socially inept Spider-Man fan, I'd look in a mirror.

"Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas," while not technically a TV show, still ends up with me in front the boob tube for extended periods of time. If you forget someone is playing, it's like watching "The Sims" meets "Boyz n the Hood," with a little bit of "Get A Life" thrown in whenever the protagonist dies. Although people have ragged on the soundtrack for not being as thematically coherent as Vice City's, for me it's like a trip through my childhood.

Yes, my childhood was full of west-coast gangster rap. Somehow my mother thought it was okay for me to listen to an album called "Doggystyle." The one drawback was I actually learned what "west side" referred to and I never got to make the handsign because I knew I was living a lie, and that's an emotion I reserve for job interviews.

Between all this punting and voyeurism, I've found some time to play the DS, but I still don't get a full flavor of the system's power from it. The launch title I bought was a football game that forgets all your trades once you turn it off. Picking it up again is like dating a Wellesley girl; you keep hoping it won't require maintenance beyond turning it on, but you're inevitably disappointed.

Maybe I should have bought a different launch game, but it's too late now. In the real world of reviewing, the companies send you

the swag and you play as long as you want (=a week), but for me to afford a new game requires more UROP gofering than I care for right now. The other games don't look too interesting either. "Urbz," for example, was released on GameBoy a month ago and "Super Mario 64 DS" only serves to remind me how far away 1996 is. "Feel the Magic" looked interesting until I realized it wasn't a Sentimental Graffiti-style dating sim. Since "Déjà vu," America has been mired in a serious first-person RPG gap with Japan, and this deficit isn't going to fix itself.

Even if I got all the launch games, I would need other people to play with to explore the wireless capabilities of the system. Pretty much everybody that bought them has them wrapped away somewhere awaiting a celebration of Maccabeus / Jeebus / Kwanze'bus. How will I ever experience the joy of sending doodles to my friends as far away as a few yards? Without trying that, I just can't fashion propaganda lauding it in good conscience.

If you can believe anything you hear on "The Daily Show" then apparently DS won't be the toy-to-beat I hoped anyway. Supposedly some thing called the Robosapien is this season's official Red Ryder carbine-action, 200-shot, range-model air rifle. There's no hit TV show to advertise it, it's not produced by a famous brand, and no ostensibly alternative pop group is singing its praises, but everyone from Colin to Condoleeza is supposed to love it. The day kids go for no-name dancing robots over the security of market-saturating multinationals, is the day my He-Man era consciousness of commercialism and I have to quit this game.

## Geek Love Sexual Currency

By Emily Kagan

Dear Geek Love,

I am a senior and have been dating a former TA of mine for the past semester. Things have been fine, the sex is good, but as of late he's been wanting to take things more seriously. To complicate things, he is currently my sister's TA. He all but assured me she would do well in the class, but I worry that she's earned her grade and what might happen if I don't want this relationship to go further. I don't want it to screw her up academically. And so while technically nothing wrong has been done, I'm at a loss.

-BK

Dear BK,

While a position of power can grant a person up to fifty extrasexy points, the bonus is not without its quandaries. Any time you have a relationship with someone whose job title makes them sexier, you run into the question of sex as currency. OK, stop thinking about prostitution. You don't have to get that extreme.

Every time you show some skin to get a drink at a bar or grease the wheels at the DMV you're using sexual currency. Whether you like it or not, the sexual relationship you've started with this guy is being exchanged for goods, i.e. your sister's grade.

The pro's of this situation fall under a category known as "duh!" You get laid, he gets laid, and your sister can slack on her pets. The con's, however, enter the murky world of morals.

Since you obviously have no problem with dating a former TA in the first place, let's move on to the other two moral dilemmas here: First, how do you feel about your sexual relationship having purchasing power?

Some people can't stand the notion that there is an ulterior motive for their relationship. In reality, there are many reasons other than pure, unfettered love that we partner off. It's not that everyone is trying to bag a decrepit Texas millionaire, but social status, gifts, challenges, power and plain old sex appeal all enter into the equation of partner selection. I'm not saying that you decided to date this guy to help out your sister, I'm just saying that it's not unheard of for people to derive benefits from a relationship that aren't well encapsulated in Hallmark cards.

The second moral question is whether it is academically unethical for your sister to receive a little favoritism. This is a bit trickier. Technically, your sister doesn't have an undue advantage that other students can't also utilize. But, being a grad student myself, I can say with certainty that the siblings of MIT undergrads have not slept with enough TAs to level the playing field. If they had, we'd be a much less miserable bunch. That being said, you should probably ask this guy to not give your sister any special favors. People talk and the last thing you want is for your partner or your sister to get kicked out of school for academic dishonesty.

Your concern for your sister's academic future is touching, but I'm going to guess that she is not quite as concerned about her comprehension of the course material as you are. She (hopefully) has plenty of other classes in which you aren't sleeping with her TA. Rest assured, she will still get a fine MIT education.

On the other hand, if you were my sister, I'd tell you what my grand pappy always told me: morals shmorals. There are only two weeks left in the semester. Keep your mouth shut, don't piss him off and I'll get you something extra special nice for Christmas.

Questions, comments, suggestions? E-mail [geeklove@mit.edu](mailto:geeklove@mit.edu) and watch what grows.

## Worlds Beyond the Mackerel Sizing Up

By Akshay Patil

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Just because I write a lot, people like assuming things about me. Now, granted, a lot of it is true. I mean, when someone spends three years writing a column that pretty much focuses around their life and what they think is funny, you're not really going out on a narrow branch by thinking they're a self-centered, egotistical, bastard who does large quantities of drugs and molests penguins with distressing frequency. But some people aren't happy assuming something as benign as that, no, they feel the driving need to make grandiose, perverted over-generalizations about me with absolutely no justification whatsoever.

"Oh Akshay!" friends and strangers coyly exclaim "you must have such a large vocabulary!" Well, the sad truth of the matter is, no I don't. Yes, I know, with the large number of words hemorrhaging out of my mouth on a weekly basis, you'd think I was immune to the MIT disease causing exponential vocabulary decay, but such is not the case. The real problem is that when you read a grand total of one book (and I mean book, not your fancy shmancy course notes or O'Reilly texts) a year, you aren't replacing words at anywhere near the rate they're

falling out of your ears.

"But you write so... often" they cry, careful to not say anything positive in a conscientious effort to avoid encouraging me further, "certainly practice makes for not-forgetfulness?" What everyone forgets is that with writing, unlike everything else in life, it's not the size of your vocabulary, it's how you use it.

That's right, I admit it, I've got a small vocabulary. It's a bit of a complex for me and I often feel inadequate around people with larger vocabularies. A friend of mine has an enormous one which he uses with just reckless abandon. Even when a situation could be handled by a small word, he'll just bust out a huge one in order to make an impression. Half the time he doesn't even know how to use what he's got and is putting it out there to see if somebody bites. Makes me sick.

But what's important to realize is just because you have a small vocabulary, doesn't mean you have to accept your fate. A number of companies will sell you kits which can help you enlarge your vocabulary. These are quite painless and available via mail-order. I've never used one, but friends have and from what I hear, they can be quite effective. After a few months of regular use, one friend experienced a doubling in size and felt

more confident than ever using his vocabulary.

I personally don't like to use artificial methods and prefer a more natural approach. I diligently practice every night in an effort to become the master of my (vocabulary) domain so that when called upon, I can go longer and stronger while still staying fresh. People have expectations when they turn to this page and look for me, I can't let them down with something short and bland.

The other problem with my vocabulary is that I can't spell so gud. When I'm in the middle of things, what I've got often comes out misshapen and hard for people to grasp. Thankfully I can use protection, like word processors, which correct my problem without anybody noticing. Mistakes do happen though, so late at night my editor sometimes notices something showing and has to clean up after me.

Well, we can't all be blessed with big vocabularies and just because someone is known for using theirs a lot doesn't mean it's enormous. The key is using yours to the best that you are able and accepting your limitations when you fail to measure up. So make the most of it while you're young, because when you get older your mind will have even more trouble bringing things up.

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# In the Parlance of Our Times

## The Way We Get By

By Zach Ozer

CAMPUS LIFE COLUMNIST

I've got a terrible addiction. I used to have control over it — I'd take a hit once a week and be done with it. Then it became two per week. Someone eventually told me that "it seems like it's all you ever talk about." Then I started doing it with other people. At first they recoiled, the very thought disgusted them. Gradually, they too became obsessed.

I couldn't figure out how it could be so addicting, I mean, the average MIT student seems pretty happy even without any artificial stimulation (with the exclusion of caffeine, which keeps the vast majority of us conscious). What I discovered, however, is that no student can indefinitely resist the powerfully attractive force pulling him away from his studies and towards relaxation.

For example, this Thanksgiving, while many were spending time with family, or more likely their psets, I spent a grand total of about 7

hours getting my fix. It was rather reminiscent of my early days of pubescence: every time my parents walked into my room, I'd quickly hide what I was doing, turn around, and pretend that everything was completely normal.

That's right, "Desperate Housewives" has taken over my life. Even before you read this sentence, the previous sentence has probably led you to think, "Good lord, a run of the mill soap opera posing as a prime time comedy / drama is so much worse than pathogenic drug use." But "Housewives" isn't what you'd expect, especially from the network that brought you... umm... "Late Night with Jimmy Kimmel." Okay, well, I can't think of any good primetime show ABC puts out, so I sure as hell hope you can't either.

More importantly, however, is that "Housewives" isn't about women who are desperately lusting over the gardener or the plumber. I mean, it does have those things, but that's not what it's about. It's about women who feel

stuck in their lives. The show opens with the suicide of Mary Alice Young, who serves as the one woman chorus for the rest of the show. Her neighborhood friends naturally assume that the reason for her suicide stemmed from the pressure of the mundane growing too great. While our omniscient narrator tells the audience that this is not so, as her friends battle their everyday problems, the death of Mary Alice is a constant reminder not to become overwhelmed by these stresses (perhaps there is a message here for MIT students).

But what is truly amazing about the show is the wit. It isn't always overt, but it's definitely there and very memorable. For example, when Bree Van De Kamp's husband announces his dissatisfaction with his wife, they seek marriage counseling. In one scene, the characters find themselves discussing sex. Off to the side, one can catch a glimpse of Bree subtly playing with a distinctly phallic object. It's even better when she has a "When

Harry Met Sally" scene in a restaurant with her therapist. He promptly proceeds to ask for the check without even having ordered. Then there is the dinner party where Lynette Scavo discloses that she and her husband had sex on "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride" at Disney World. Gabrielle Solis (the one having an affair with the gardener) kicked her Latin lover out the window, literally. He reemerges, a Romeo to her Juliet, at the same window, to trim her hedges while talking to her husband.

I can't really explain why shows like "Housewives" or "The O.C." are so great (if I could, I would be a famous and wealthy Hollywood producer, not a lowly MIT student). But while avoiding my work over Thanksgiving, I learned something from watching TV; a piece of wisdom I will not impart to you. MIT colleagues, when the pressures of the Institute seem to grow too great, worry not. Remember the words of Walter from the Big Lewbowski, "Fuck it Dude. Let's go bowling."

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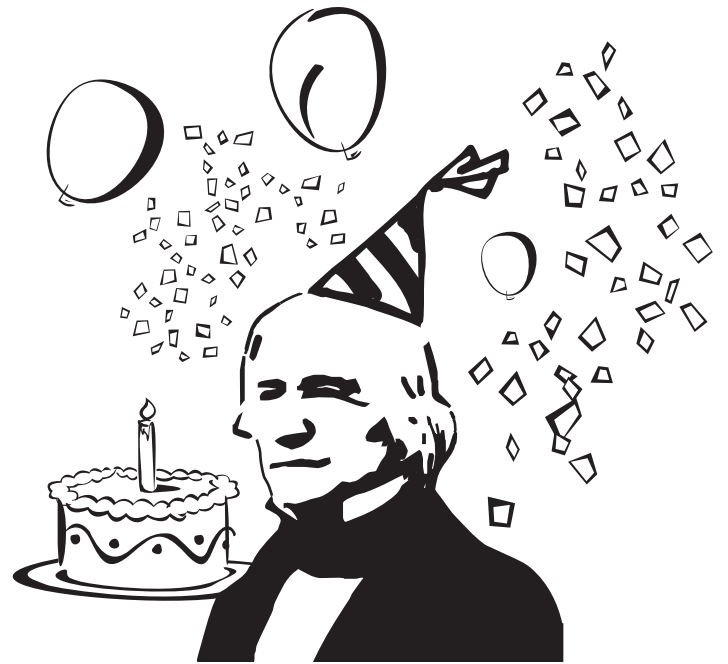
**DECEMBER 10, 2004**  
**12:00 - 7:00 PM**

Any and all students, faculty and staff are invited to review the possible new look of MIT Athletics created by SME Branding of New York. SME has developed sports brands for major college and professional teams for over 15 years. The proposed designs were created based on workshops and interviews held with selected MIT students, alumni, faculty and staff earlier this Fall.



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**Applications due January 28, 2005.**

# Former UA VP Not Registered

By Beckett W. Sterner and Kelley Rivoire  
EDITORS

Former Undergraduate Association Vice President Phillip A. Vasquez '05 was not registered as a student this term, according to the Registrar.

Registrar Assistant Pauline J. Blair said that the last date Vasquez had officially attended classes was May 21.

Both UA President Harel M. Williams '05 and Senate Speaker Rose A. Grabowski '05 said they were unaware Vasquez was not currently registered.

Vasquez refused to comment. Williams said Vasquez had appeared to be a normal student in doing homework and taking tests. "I saw him going to class and doing schoolwork," he said.

"I guess it's something that you take for granted, that they're telling you the truth that they're a registered student," Grabowski said. She said Vasquez had complained about classes just as much as everyone else.

According to the UA's constitution, an officer of the UA must be considered an undergraduate student at MIT, defined as "a person considered by the Registrar of MIT to be making adequate progress towards at least one undergraduate degree."

Williams said Vasquez's not being registered was not the problem per se, but rather that no one knew.

"I think it depends on the understanding of the student body," he said. "If the student body is aware that the officer is not going to be registered for classes, that would be appropriate." However, if students are not, it is "a bit questionable."

Williams said that whether UA officials should be registered students is "definitely a conversation that has to be had with students" to see how they feel about it.

"We really look for students to police themselves" to see whether officials of student groups are registered, said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

The UA vice president's not being a registered student is "something that's not come up before," he said.

"Clearly, we need to look into the matter," he said, and will bring it up at his next meeting with UA officials.

## Registration needed for housing

It is not clear how Vasquez was able to get housing in Simmons without being a registered student.

In general, housing policy at MIT requires that someone be a registered student to qualify for housing in a dormitory, said Benedict.

"We routinely screen to make sure students in housing are enrolled," he said.

However, it is possible for stu-

# Many Duties for MITFCU Board Members

MITFCU, from Page 1

to provide financial services for MIT employees, and held total assets of \$156 million as of Dec. 31, 2003, according to its 2003 financial statement.

## Board takes active governance role

The MITFCU directors comprise a "very active board [that] meets a lot," said Board Treasurer John L. Matarese.

The credit union has "progressed a lot in the last five or ten years," he said. "That didn't happen by itself. It happened with a lot of involvement and planning."

He said that any board member must be able to commit eight hours per month, including evening board meetings and attending and reporting on at least one financial conference annually.

A new board member must complete a volunteer education program

and pass a competency test as well, he said. Also, after sending in the application, the current board will decide whether to nominate each applicant to be on the ballot for the election.

The responsibilities of the board include approving the budget, meeting once a month, going over reports, and generally "whatever the president of the credit union brings forward," Matarese said.

Recently, the credit union has

held elections by mailing ballots to each member with biographies and pictures of each candidate and what they hope to achieve. The ballots are sent to an independent firm, which reports the results at the annual board meeting in April.

Matarese said that only three people ran for the three open positions last year, although there were five candidates the previous year.

For application materials, e-mail [john@matarese.com](mailto:john@matarese.com).



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Jim Coughlan paints a concrete buttress at the southeast corner of Building 18, the Dreyfus Building. The buttress had sustained smoke damage in the past and was being painted so that a major contributor's name can be affixed on Friday.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH


Joe Larrivee, from Facilities, helps vacuum leaves behind Building 6 last Thursday. After two extremely windy days, most of the leaves have fallen from the trees.

dents to have "slipped through the cracks," Benedict said, although "we do check student status for housing purposes."

## Solution to KRT Crossword

from page 7

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



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# MIT Will Direct New Nuclear Energy Lab

By Meghana Limaye

MIT is leading a group of universities and companies in a new nuclear energy laboratory whose goal will be to develop a next-generation nuclear power plant.

The Idaho National Laboratory, a combination of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory West, will give MIT's Department of Nuclear Engineering more funding from the US Department of Energy, said David Moncton, director of the MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory.

Currently, the MIT reactor is involved in testing new fuels and materials for a next-generation power plant. Many graduate students are already involved in this research, and this number will increase with the new funding for the Nuclear Engineering Department. There will also be opportunities for students to go to Idaho to perform experiments not possible here, said Moncton.

Students would be working with the Advanced Test Reactor in Idaho, a more powerful reactor than the one at MIT. The mission of the Idaho National Laboratory is to develop a prototype reactor to carry the future of nuclear power and hydrogen production, Moncton said.

Hydrogen production, which is needed to move to a fuel-cell economy, is a good complement for nuclear power because of the high temperatures and electricity needed. The MIT Nuclear Reactor will play a significant role in the research of

the laboratory. Smaller-scale experiments needed to develop the next generation power plant will take place in the MIT reactor rather than in the larger one in Idaho, said Edward S. Lau, Superintendent of Reactor Operations. MIT is the only university in the consortium to have a working test reactor.

The other universities in the consortium include the University of New Mexico, North Carolina State, Ohio State University, Oregon State University, and a regional collaboration of the major Idaho universities (the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, and Boise State University). Each of these schools has a strong nuclear engineering department and acts as a center in their own region.

The idea is to establish a network of universities interested in participating in the next generation nuclear power plant; but the network will not be exclusively these five, said Moncton. The five schools will lead other interested universities, and all will be led by MIT, he said.

Faculty in the MIT Nuclear Engineering Department were already working towards a new type of nuclear reactor and looking to the future of nuclear energy, but the creation of the Idaho National Laboratory will give new focus to the research currently being conducted. The new lab will help move the research at MIT from technology development to mission-driven technology, which will add excitement to the work being done here, Moncton said.

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# Pentagon Refuses MIT's Request for Access to Data

1983	March 23	President Ronald Reagan announces the Strategic Defense Initiative, an ambitious proposal derided by critics as "Star Wars," to protect the United States from a massive Soviet missile attack.
1993		The Strategic Defense Initiative Organization is renamed the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, or BMDO, with the goal of developing a much more limited defense against missiles.
1996		Nira Schwartz, a senior engineer at the military contractor TRW Inc. (now known as Northrop Grumman Systems & Mission Corp.) accuses TRW of exaggerating the ability of a sensor and computer program that try to tell the difference between warheads flying through outer space and balloon decoys. She sues TRW on behalf of the government. (In March 2003, the case is dismissed on the grounds that it would hurt national security by revealing classified information. She has appealed.)
1997	June 24	The BMDO and its contractors, including TRW, conduct a test, known as the Integrated Flight Test 1A, to see whether the TRW system can tell the difference between warheads and decoy balloons floating in outer space. The director of the BMDO calls the test "very successful."
1998	June 1	In response to Schwartz's allegations, the BMDO commissions a group of five scientists, known as the Phase One Engineering Team, or POET, to review the June 1997 IFT-1A test. The team is led by MIT's Lincoln Laboratory and includes two Lincoln Lab scientists, Ming-Jer Tsai and Charles K. Meins Jr. '75.
1998		The POET team concludes that "Mrs. Schwartz's allegations were not true," according to a scientist familiar with the team's work who spoke on condition of anonymity. The team writes that in general, TRW's methods "are well designed and work properly."
2000	December	TRW's system is not selected for the missile defense system. Instead, the BMDO chooses a competing system from Waltham-based Raytheon. Critics, including Professor Theodore Postol of MIT, maintain that the Raytheon system has the same problems in distinguishing warheads from decoys as the TRW system.
2000	May	Schwartz sends an unclassified copy of the POET report to Professor Postol. He sends it to the White House, along with a detailed letter accusing TRW of "fraudulent methods."
2001	April	Postol begins sending a stream of letters to MIT officials, calling the POET report "a serious case of scientific fraud" and demanding that MIT repudiate the report.
2001	January	The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization is renamed the Missile Defense Agency.
2002	February 11	Provost Robert A. Brown writes to Postol that MIT will not review the factual accuracy of the POET report, because it is a "government, not MIT, document." But MIT will initiate a misconduct investigation against the report's two MIT authors, Tsai and Meins, Brown writes.
2002	February 28	The General Accounting Office, the non-partisan investigative arm of Congress, gives Postol some ammunition by releasing two reports criticizing the POET report and concluding that TRW had exaggerated its system's performance.
2002	April	Brown appoints Professor Edward F. Crawley '76, then the head of the Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering Department, to conduct a preliminary inquiry in order to determine whether a full misconduct investigation is warranted.
2003	July	Crawley writes in a draft report that no investigation is warranted. "Not only do I find no evidence of research misconduct, but I also find no credible evidence of technical error."
2003	August 2	Crawley and Postol meet for a lengthy technical discussion.
2003	November 4	Crawley reverses his earlier draft finding, and recommends a full investigation into Postol's allegations.
2003	January	Brown accepts Crawley's recommendation for a full-blown investigation. At this point, the MIT Policies require that an investigation begin "promptly."
2004	March	Brown releases a statement that MIT has not yet begun the investigation into Professor Postol's allegations. "MIT has been working to establish a process that permits these issues to be investigated fully and objectively. To achieve this goal, MIT must explore with the relevant federal agencies the steps necessary to permit the investigation to proceed."
2004	December 1	President Vest releases a statement that the Institute has so far been unable to investigate Professor Postol's allegations because the Missile Defense Agency has not allowed an investigation of the POET report. "MIT has identified a panel of distinguished outside investigators, all of whom have appropriate security clearances, to conduct the investigation. However, we have not yet been successful in obtaining approval from the Missile Defense Agency to give them access to this classified information. Without that access, the investigation cannot be conducted."
2004	December 2	The Missile Defense Agency releases a statement that it has denied MIT's request because there have already been enough investigations into the Integrated Flight Test 1A.

## Missile, from Page 1

Theodore Postol — began sending a stream of letters to MIT officials, calling the POET report "a serious case of scientific fraud" and demanding that MIT repudiate the report. In November 2002, a preliminary inquiry into Postol's allegations by Professor Edward F. Crawley '76, then the head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, found that Postol's allegations had enough merit to warrant a full investigation.

Under MIT's rules, an investigation should have begun "promptly" thereafter. But no investigation ever did, because MIT now says the Missile Defense Agency — the successor of the agency that commissioned the POET report in the first place — refused to allow an MIT investigation to proceed.

The Missile Defense Agency "decided that all of the information related to the allegations, including the report of the inquiry itself, had to be classified in order to protect national security," MIT said in its statement, released Wednesday.

"MIT has identified a panel of

distinguished outside investigators, all of whom have appropriate security clearances, to conduct the investigation. However, we have not yet been successful in obtaining approval from the Missile Defense Agency to give them access to this classified information. Without that access, the investigation cannot be conducted. We continue to seek the approval needed so that the investigation can proceed," the statement said.

Coyle, the former assistant secretary of defense, wondered why MIT does not already have whatever classified information it needs. "It should go without saying, but Lincoln Lab must have had the necessary information they needed to do their work in the first place," Coyle said. "If they did, then the investigation could be completed by MIT using information already in its possession."

### For scientists, no resolution

For Postol, who has been writing highly critical letters about the POET study to various officials for almost a half-decade, MIT's inability to perform the investigation

required under the MIT rules represents an inconclusive result.

In an e-mail, he argued that MIT did not need access to classified information — just common sense and tough questioning — in order to validate his accusations of scientific fraud.

Meanwhile, another kind of inconclusive result is surely present for the authors of the POET study, who include Dr. Ming-Jer Tsai and Dr. Charles K. Meins Jr. '75 of Lincoln Laboratory.

Postol insists that his accusations of fraud are aimed only at the Pentagon and the management of Lincoln Laboratory, not the POET study's named authors. But that is little consolation to the authors, who have been instructed not to defend their work publicly, according to a scientist familiar with the team's work who spoke on condition of anonymity in 2002.

"Ted Postol is making all these claims," the scientist said then. "Unfortunately I can't talk to him, explain to him that we have data that proves that he's wrong."

Meins and Tsai did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

## MIT Statement

Integrity in research and scholarship is a bedrock principle of MIT, and we give serious attention to allegations of violation of that principle. Furthermore, federal policy requires that we conduct inquiries or investigations as appropriate when the integrity of research in federally sponsored programs is questioned.

In this case, MIT has worked for nearly three years to meet this responsibility, but has been unsuccessful in obtaining access to classified materials essential to complete this process.

In early 2002, MIT commissioned an inquiry into the allegations, which, as has been earlier reported, found that an investigation was warranted. Such a finding is not a determination that research misconduct occurred. Rather, an investigation was recommended to review issues that had been identified but could not be resolved during the preliminary inquiry.

As required by federal policy, the finding of the preliminary inquiry was reported to the Missile Defense Agency, which then decided that all of the information relating to the allegations, including the report of the inquiry itself, had to be classified in order to protect national security. MIT has identified a panel of distinguished outside investigators, all of whom have appropriate security clearances, to conduct the investigation. However, we have not yet been successful in obtaining approval from the Missile Defense Agency to give them access to this classified information. Without that access, the investigation cannot be conducted. We continue to seek the approval needed so that the investigation can proceed.

## Missile Defense Agency Statement

The proposed administrative investigation concerns allegations about the results of a 1997 missile defense flight test that were rejected in separate reviews conducted by the General Accounting Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Justice. The multiple reviews by independent government agencies of essentially the same issues coupled with the extreme sensitivity of the information at issue precluded granting MIT's request to use classified information for an internal administrative investigation.

## MIT Professor Theodore Postol

I disagree with Mr. Vest's statement that MIT cannot investigate my allegations of scientific fraud due to classification restrictions. His statement fails to account for basic scientific principles and publicly available information that together would allow the investigation to reach valid conclusions. As such, access to classified information is not needed to determine whether or not scientific fraud occurred.

Lincoln Laboratory made two key claims about the IFT-1A experiment. First, that the sensor in the IFT-1A provided valid scientific data and second, that the data was successfully used to identify warheads and decoys in the space experiment.

The key issue in determining whether or not scientific fraud occurred is whether or not the sensor worked properly. Information on the performance of the sensor is already in the public domain (e.g. the GAO published it in a report issued in March of 2002). If MIT chose to pursue an investigation, all they would need to do is to verify whether or not the sensor obtained valid data.

In March of 2002 the GAO reported that the sensor in the IFT-1A did not cool to its operating temperature and that it had lost "calibration." The loss of calibration means that the sensor did not provide valid data and that Lincoln could not possibly have used the data to identify warheads and decoys.

The significance of this loss in calibration is easy to understand. It is analogous to a situation where a viewer must identify dots by color on a TV screen when the correct color balance has been totally lost. Unless the viewer can correct the color balance, that is, the "calibration" of the TV, the dots will not be shown in their true color and will never be identifiable by color.

An MIT investigation only needs to determine how Lincoln Laboratory could identify such dots by color when the sensor had completely lost calibration. Lincoln needs to explain why they failed to inform federal investigators about the loss of calibration and its consequences. MIT needs to explain why they allowed, or failed to correct, misleading briefings made by Lincoln Laboratory to senior members of the Senate armed services committee.

Mr. Vest has been on oversight boards for organizations like the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan (ERIM), which is one of the premiere scientific institutions in the world that works on interpreting and analyzing data from infrared sensors of the kind used in the IFT-1A. It is difficult to understand how Mr. Vest would not know that the calibration issue is the key to determining the conclusions of an investigation. To not understand such basic scientific principles should be, and is, an embarrassment to MIT, the institution he represents when he made these statements.



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Justin W. Lee '08 makes his final presentation in Mission 2008: Galapagos (12,000 — Solving Complex Problems) in front of his peers and a panel of judges in Building 32 last Thursday night.



join@tt.mit.edu  
The pineapples can be very persuasive.





BATYA FELLMAN—THE TECH

Christa Margossian '07 looks for an open player to pass to last Tuesday night against Wentworth College.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Signalling the arrival of the holidays, a festive wreath hangs above the entrance to 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

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Summer 2005  
Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)  
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Undergraduate science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science students are invited to apply for summer research positions at the MIT Haystack Observatory in Westford, MA. Research projects include radio astronomical studies, atmospheric physics investigations, and hardware and software development for data acquisition, processing, and recording systems. The program extends from June 6 to August 12, 2005 and carries a weekly stipend of \$400.00. Women, minorities and students with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For further information and application materials, see <http://www.haystack.edu/reu/>.

Application deadline is 1 February 2005

# Happy Friday!