

MIT's  
Oldest and Largest  
Newspaper



**The Weather**  
Today: Rain, 40°F (4°C)  
Tonight: More rain, 37°F (3°C)  
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 55°F (13°C)  
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Volume 124, Number 59

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

## Mental Health Response Criticized

By Beckett W. Sterner  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Two people hospitalized by MIT as undergraduates have said they felt the decision was either unfounded or inappropriate, and in both cases that MIT did not act quickly to resolve the situation and remove them from what they described as a traumatizing experience.

The two, a man and a woman, requested their names remain anonymous for privacy reasons, but for convenience will be referred to by the pseudonyms "Alex" and "Shirley." Alex was committed in 1998, Shirley in 2003.

Both stayed a total of 12 days at McLean Hospital, a large psychiatric facility of Harvard Medical School, and both sought to leave substantially earlier while relying on visiting friends for clothing, personal items or academic work.

Neither said that in retrospect being hospitalized was necessary or particularly helpful in fixing the situations that initially led to them being committed to McLean.

Due to anonymity, MIT administrators were not able to comment on the specific cases, but Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for students, said that the length of the two's hospitalizations are "so

Hospitalization, Page 12

## Community Welcomes President Hockfield

By Jeffrey Chang  
STAFF REPORTER

It wasn't her birthday, but President Susan Hockfield received a cake placed in her office by a group of hackers yesterday, continuing the tradition of creative welcomes for MIT presidents on their first day.

The cake was in the shape of MIT's great dome, complete with a replica of the Wright brothers' flyer on top, and a plastic policeman. A group of students identifying themselves as the ones responsible for the hack requested anonymity but said that when the group asked Hockfield what she thought of the cake, she said that she liked it. The students also said that Hockfield said her first day was a success and that people have been very welcoming and enthusiastic.

Hockfield's first day as president concluded with a lively reception in the Stratton Student Center from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Attendees were

Welcome, Page 16



President Susan Hockfield converses with members of the MIT community at her welcome reception in the Student Center on Monday, Dec. 6.

## Presidency 'An Enormous Honor' For Hockfield

President Susan Hockfield recently responded to questions from The Tech's news department in an e-mail. The questions and Hockfield's responses follow.

**TT:** What significance do you attach to being the first woman named president of MIT?

**Hockfield:** We often feel that change comes too slowly, but the last few decades have been a time of rapid change that have brought increasing opportunities for people from all sectors of our society. To some, the election of a woman, and

a life scientist, as president of MIT will seem a natural progression; to others, it will seem a remarkable departure from past traditions. Viewed from any perspective, it is an enormous honor to be the first woman, and the first life scientist, to have been chosen to serve as MIT's president.

I have benefited enormously from the pioneering women and men who made it possible for steadily increasing numbers of women of my generation to take on key roles in the academy and throughout our society. Now, we

owe it to the current generation of students, and to subsequent generations, to continue the progress toward what we can truly and proudly call a great meritocracy, on this campus and across the nation.

I hope that my election to MIT's presidency will give confidence to women and girls, as well as to people from all backgrounds, to believe that they, too, can take on roles that perhaps have not previously been open to them.

**TT:** What is your top priority as the new president?

**Hockfield:** Clearly, my top prior-

ity must be to build on MIT's strengths and to help the Institute use those strengths to chart its course into the future. I believe deeply in the strength of communities and the power of ideas that come from the people in those communities. My top priority for the present is to learn from MIT's faculty, students, staff and alumni what they view as the key opportunities and challenges in the years ahead. From the day my appointment was announced, I began meeting with,

Interview, Page 17

## Zhou Approved as New UA Vice President

By Kelley Rivoire  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Janet Y. Zhou '06 was unanimously elected as Vice President of the Undergraduate Association by the UA Senate last night, filling the vacancy left by the recent resignation of Phillip A. Vasquez '05. To take on her new role, Zhou subsequently resigned from her position as treasurer.

UA President Harel M. Williams '05 praised Zhou's work as treasurer and said he anticipates that "she's going to continue to do a great job in her role as Vice President." She "has brilliant ideas about how to make things more efficient," he said.

Zhou said that her role as treasurer has been a "wonderful learning experience so far," and she "look[s] forward to learning more" in her new role as Vice President.

As Vice President, Zhou said she hopes to "improve the communica-

tion going on between different student governments."

Williams said the UA will perform additional recruitment to fill the vacant treasurer slot by next semester. He said there was "no real time-sensitive issue," as next semester's budget has already been completed, and the new treasurer can "transition very quickly."

**UA passes Simmons resolutions**

The UA also passed two resolutions related to the Oct. 9 party at Simmons Hall, which was unregistered and

Election, Page 18



Janet Y. Zhou '06 was elected Undergraduate Association Vice President at a meeting of the UA Senate last night.

## IFC Plans To Facilitate IAP, Spring Recruitment

By Tiffany Chen  
STAFF REPORTER

The Interfraternity Council is planning to hold spring recruitment during Independent Activities Period and February of next term. Unlike previous years, the IFC will be hosting activities to allow people to explore the various fraternities at MIT.

Spring recruitment will allow people who missed fall rush to join fraternities. IFC Recruitment Chair Brad W. Schiller '07 said the IFC will be conducting study sessions and other activities to enable people to familiarize themselves with fraternities.

**Changes in recruitment**

In the past, fraternities conducted their own spring recruitment individually. This year, in an

attempt to attract more members, the IFC will be facilitating recruitment in a more centralized fashion.

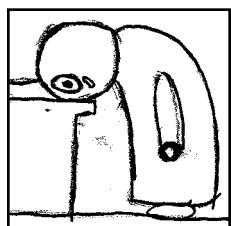
"Fall rush is very intense and lots of pressure," said IFC President Christopher P. Child '06. Spring rush typically offers a more sedate way for freshmen to rush fraternities and independent living groups.

In addition, Schiller said that freshmen may have had experience with only one house during fall. Spring recruitment will therefore allow freshmen to meet everybody and go to the various fraternity houses.

IFC Vice President Jordan K. Fabyanske '06 cites the freshmen on campus policy as one of the primary reasons for spring recruitment. He

Rush, Page 15

This is our last issue of the semester. *The Tech* will publish on Wednesdays during IAP, starting with Jan. 5, 2005. Have a good winter break!



Comics

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NEWS

MIT professors explore misconceptions about innovation in their new book.

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# WORLD & NATION

## French Lose Their Own Test Explosives On Flight

By Matthew Saltmarsh  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

France's interior minister called it "scandalous." *Le Figaro* called it "ridiculous." But whatever you choose to call it, on Monday, four days after the police at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle International Airport planted explosives in an unsuspecting passenger's suitcase, nobody knew yet where the explosives had gone.

"We hope the person who finds this will take it to the local authorities," said a spokesman for the gendarmerie, France's national police, who planted the mobile-phone-size lump of plastic explosives as part of an exercise to train bomb-sniffing dogs. "We hope they don't throw it away."

The explosives, which had no detonator, are not thought to pose a danger. The police spokesman, Pierre Bouquin, said that if detonated, they would probably be enough to blow a door from a car.

The police are working on the assumption that the explosives left Paris aboard a flight between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday. About 90 planes left the airport in that period for international destinations, including Italy, Japan, Brazil and the United States, as well as for French cities.

## OPEC May Weigh Cutting Some Production

By Jad Mouawad  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Oil prices have been at record highs this year, with money gushing into the coffers of oil producers thanks to the world's growing thirst for oil. But as OPEC leaders head into a fifth and final meeting for the year on Friday, the topic on their minds and on the agenda is whether there will be too much oil sloshing around the world next year. For some, production cuts may be in order.

After hitting a record of more than \$55 a barrel in October, oil prices in New York have since fallen by 23 percent. Under pressure to bring down oil prices, members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries began pumping at full capacity this summer and they continue to do so.

Now, because of OPEC's efforts, there is more oil on the market than is needed to meet demand. With the group's production at its highest in 25 years, some producers fear oil prices will tumble as demand slows next year in the wake of high prices and the usual seasonal brake in the second quarter. This means OPEC might be tempted to act pre-emptively and reduce output.

## Justice Department Begins Studying Safety of Tasers

By Alex Berenson  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Department of Justice has begun to study Tasers, the electric guns that are increasingly popular with police, in the face of new questions over their safety.

Rusty York, the police chief of Fort Wayne, Ind., said that a Justice Department researcher, Joyce Gammemo, contacted him last week to follow up on a report in a local newspaper that the city had decided to buy Tasers after studying them since early 2003. Gammemo wanted to know more about Fort Wayne's research, York said.

After York outlined his department's work, Gammemo encouraged him to conduct more research before buying the guns, York said. More than 70 people have died after being shocked with Tasers, though the company that makes the weapons, Taser International, says the deaths were not related to their use.

# Congress Reaches Consensus For Passing Intelligence Bill

By Philip Shenon  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Congressional leaders said they reached final agreement Monday allowing passage of a bill to overhaul the nation's intelligence community and enact the major recommendations of the independent Sept. 11 commission, including creation of the job of national intelligence director to force the CIA and other government spy agencies to share intelligence about national security threats.

The agreement ended a weeks-long stalemate over the bill, which had been endorsed by President Bush and the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks but opposed by a group of Republican lawmakers close to the Pentagon who insisted that the bill would dangerously dilute the authority of the Defense Department over intelligence needed on the battlefield.

The Republicans, led by Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said they were satisfied by a last-minute revision of the bill to include a sentence requiring that the new national intelligence director operate under guidelines that do

not "abrogate the statutory responsibilities" of the Defense Department.

Congressional officials said final House and Senate votes would probably occur Tuesday or Wednesday, allowing Bush to sign the bill into law this week, setting in motion the largest overhaul of the nation's system for gathering and sharing intelligence since the creation of the CIA in 1947.

The bill would also create a National Counterterrorism Center to coordinate terrorism intelligence from throughout the government, as well as establish an independent civil liberties board to review the government's privacy policies.

Prominent civil liberties advocates have opposed the overall bill, saying that it grants broad new surveillance and anti-immigration powers to law enforcement agencies that endanger constitutional protections.

The bill's supporters described the last-minute revisions, which were worked out with the White House during weekend negotiations directly overseen by Vice President Dick Cheney and his staff, as minor. They said they would not undermine the powers of the national intelligence director, who is described in the bill as the president's chief intel-

ligence adviser and who would take authority away from both the CIA and the Pentagon.

"I think we need intelligence reform," Hunter said at a news conference Monday with Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who also announced his endorsement of the revised bill after expressing reservations in the past few days.

"My obligation is to the defense sector in this bill, the military aspect of this bill, and the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States," said Hunter, who was able to block a final House vote on the otherwise popular intelligence bill last month. "We have received a satisfactory provisions that protects them, and so I will vote for the bill."

In a joint statement, the bill's chief Senate authors, Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., said they welcomed the agreement and said the bill "creates a more coordinated intelligence community with one person in charge, to help make Americans safer and better serve the president, the military, Congress and other agencies that rely on national intelligence."

# U.S. Consulate in Saudi Arabia Raided, Al-Qaida Tie Suspected

By Neil Macfarquhar  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JIDDA, SAUDI ARABIA

Five attackers thought to be linked to al-Qaida staged a brazen daytime raid on the U.S. Consulate in this kingdom's most cosmopolitan city on Monday, storming through the sprawling compound's fortified gate and starting a three-hour gunbattle that left five local consulate employees and four of the attackers dead.

It was the first deadly assault against a large expatriate target in this country in seven months, and the first against a Western diplomatic mission since a stretch of terrorist violence erupted here in May 2003.

The attack fell exactly a year after the Interior Ministry made the

unprecedented move of listing the 26 most-wanted terrorists linked to al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia. In the ensuing year, about 17 have been captured or killed in numerous skirmishes throughout the desert kingdom.

But the attack on Monday was a reminder that the increasingly fragmented group was still capable of lethal violence. The choice of an American target, and a heavily secured one at that, may have been an attempt by al-Qaida to win back some of the support it lost here by killing civilians, including many Saudis and other Arabs, in a string of attacks against residential compounds.

A brief announcement from the Interior Ministry, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, said that

"members of a deviant group threw explosives at the gate of the U.S. Consulate." The terminology is the ministry's usual shorthand for the offshoots of the terrorist network al-Qaida operating inside Saudi Arabia.

The announcement said Saudi security forces wanted to assure the public that they are determined to stamp out anyone attempting to bring "schisms and corruption" into the country. The attack brought a huge swath of Jidda, Saudi Arabia's financial and trade hub, to a standstill.

Streets around the U.S. Consulate were sealed. The consulate lies near the waterfront. Some people stopped to gape at a helicopter circling above the heavy black smoke billowing into the gray winter sky from a building set on fire inside the compound.

# WEATHER

## Cold, Cold, and More Cold

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg  
PRODUCTION STAFF

A confluence of factors beyond mortal comprehension has conspired to provide the MIT campus with yet another winter. There are some "fronts" moving around, but this is mostly meaningless jargon. You should know that temperatures at, around, above, or below the freezing point of water are expected for much of the next week. Today we are likely to experience rain which desperately wants to freeze; professional meteorologists call this "freezing drizzle." Temperatures will not exceed our Tuesday high of 40°F (4°C).

Watch out for ice! It can be slippery even when it is not wet. Also, although icicles may look pretty, do not stand directly beneath them. They may not be as securely attached as you imagine, and they are often very sharp. This accident can be very embarrassing to explain to MIT Medical.

### Extended forecast:

**Tonight:** Showers of rain fall towards the ground. Do not worry! It is not harmful! Low 37°F (3°C).

**Wednesday:** Parts of the sky are cloudy. Other parts are not. High 55°F (13°C).

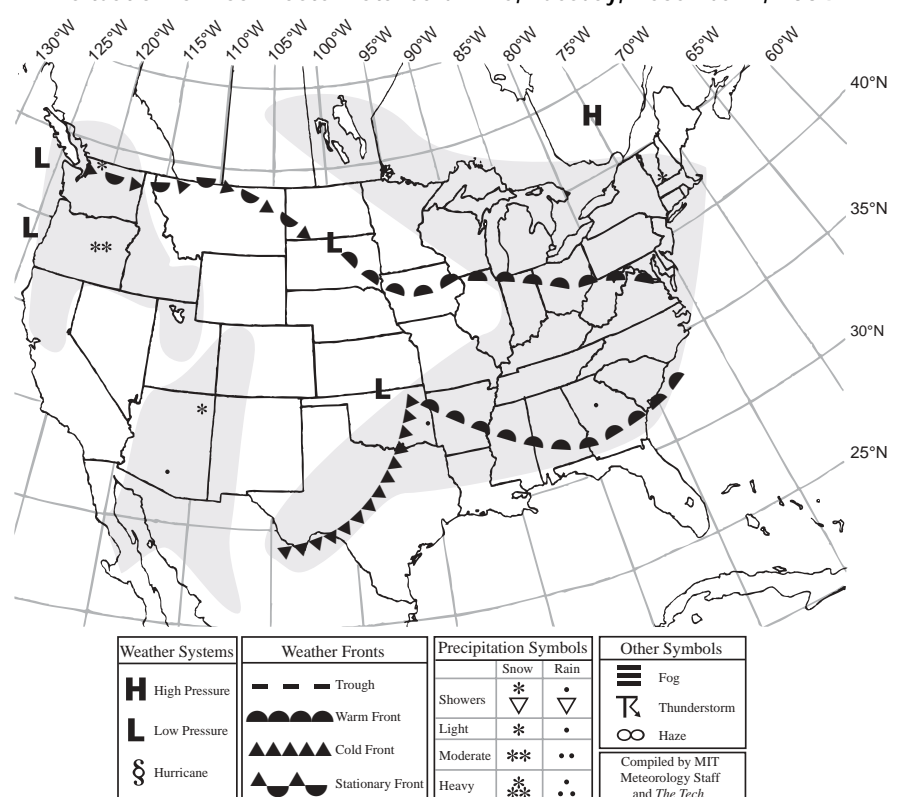
**Wednesday night:** The sky is still partly cloudy. The rest, after 4:12 PM, will be dark. (To one minute of precision, this is the earliest the sun sets in Boston all year!) Low 30°F (-1°C).

**Thursday:** Still partly cloudy. High 45°F (7°C). Low 32°F (intriguingly, this is 0°C).

**Friday:** It may rain or snow! If it falls from the sky and it is wet, do not be concerned! It is not fatal. Low 37°F (3°C).

In a few weeks this week will seem warm. Don't worry about long-term snowball storage space in your freezer just yet. Good luck with your finals!

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, December 7, 2004



# U.S. Troops to Leave Iraq Within Four Years, Predicts Rumsfeld

By Eric Schmitt  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KUWAIT

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Monday that he expected American troops to withdraw from Iraq within four years, but he cautioned that any final decision hinged on the progress that Iraq's civilian government and security forces make by then.

Asked by reporters traveling with him whether U.S. forces would be out of Iraq by the end of his term, Rumsfeld paused to ask whether that meant a second four-term term.

When told yes, he then said, "I would certainly expect that to be the case and hope that to be the

case."

Rumsfeld quickly noted that President Bush has repeatedly said American forces would stay as long as needed in Iraq. But Rumsfeld's answer offered intriguing clues into his thinking on two crucial subjects: the duration of American troops in Iraq and how long he will stay in his job.

The Defense Department last week announced it would increase the number of American troops in Iraq to 150,000 from 138,000 by early next month, to help provide security for the Iraqi elections on Jan. 30 and to keep pressure on the insurgency.

Pentagon officials said this is only a temporary increase, through

next March. But many American military officers and senior Iraqi ministry officials have forecast that the United States would have to keep a sizable troop presence in Iraq for years to come to battle a resilient and deadly insurgency, and to help prevent the country from spiraling into civil war.

President Bush last week asked Rumsfeld to stay on as defense secretary in his next administration, a request Rumsfeld confirmed Monday that he had "enthusiastically" accepted.

But Rumsfeld said he and the president did not discuss how long he would remain, and the secretary declined to go into the subject with reporters.

# NASA: Shuttle Expected to Meet New Safety Rules, Fly This Spring

By Warren E. Leary  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Although still more work needs to be done, NASA officials said Monday that they were close to meeting all safety requirements for getting space shuttles flying again by spring.

"We're looking forward to return to flight," William Parsons, the shuttle program manager, said at a news conference. "We think we've turned a corner."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration released its third major revision of its return-to-flight plan on Monday, saying the 268-page document detailed how the agency was addressing 15

requirements mandated by the board investigating the loss of the shuttle Columbia before shuttles could be launched again. Five of the requirements have been satisfied, the report said, and managers added that the agency was close to meeting the remaining 10.

"We are well on our way to return-to-flight," said John Casper, planning manager of the shuttle program. A year ago, he said, NASA had not complied with any of the investigators' recommendations or an additional 14 that the agency had imposed upon itself before flights could resume. Now the agency has resolved a third of the investigators' requirements and half of its own, he said.

"We have a good plan, an excel-

lent plan, in place," Casper said of efforts to launch the shuttle Discovery by May or June.

The three remaining shuttles have been grounded since the Columbia was destroyed upon re-entry from space on Feb. 1, 2003, killing its seven-member crew. The accident review board concluded that the disaster had been caused by debris from the main fuel tank. The debris damaged the shuttle's wing on takeoff, compromising the thermal protection system and causing the craft to burn up in the atmosphere.

Parsons said that more work was needed on methods to repair the heat protection system but that the first flights would carry the best corrections available to be tested.

## British Warn on Anti-Depressants For Adults

By Alan Cowell  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

British medical regulators urged physicians on Monday to show greater caution in prescribing anti-depressants to adults and said they should be clearly labeled with warnings about their use. Regulators did not dispute the benefits of the drugs for most adults, but the newest warning seemed to reflect a growing caution among British medical specialists about the use of anti-depressants, particularly in cases of mild depression, and an equal sense that physicians should also consider counseling and other forms of psychiatric therapy.

The warnings did not go as far as British rules a year ago that counseled against the use of six anti-depressants — not including Prozac, made by Eli Lilly & Co. — to treat depression in patients younger than 18. Those rules led to similar recommendations by U.S. health authorities last September.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority — the British equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — said that while selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, known as SSRIs, were "effective medicines in the treatment of depression and anxiety conditions" in adults, "clear advice" should be given "in all SSRI product information" about withdrawal reactions, dose changes and suicidal behavior.

Alison Langley, a spokeswoman for the authority, said this guidance related to the level of information physicians should give to patients.

## U.S. Students Lag in Math Skills

By Floyd Norris  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

High school students in Hong Kong, Finland and South Korea do best in mathematics among those in 40 surveyed countries while students in the United States finished in the bottom half, according to a new, international comparison of mathematical skills shown by 15-year-olds.

The United States was also cited as having the poorest outcomes per dollar spent on education. It ranked 28th of 40 countries on math and 18th on reading.

The study, released Monday by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group based in Paris representing 30 nations, used tests given to students in 2003 and was intended to assess relative performance and to try to determine reasons for it.

"The gap between the best and worst performing countries has widened," said Andreas Schleicher, the official who directed the study and wrote the report.

The study compared student performance in 29 of the 30 countries in the organization, which includes all major industrialized nations, and in 11 other countries that chose to participate. Due to insufficient participation in the study, figures for Britain were not reported.

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# OPINION

## Giving Up Far Too Easily

Unless we're missing something, MIT's latest announcement in response to Professor Postol's rather serious allegations about missile defense testing is far from acceptable. Professor Postol has made serious, direct claims about scientific research performed by MIT's Lincoln Labs, specifically about the performance on one infrared sensor. The response of all parties has been to obfuscate, evade, and spin their way away from addressing his charges. No one has answered the simple issues he's raised.

Every time Postol directly challenges on the grounds of freely published, unclassified scientific evidence, he convinces his audience. We're not masters of the whole case — but if the professor's simple arguments are correct as they appear to be, sufficient unclassified evidence already exists to prove his case. Of course, a scientist familiar with the paper said "that we have data that proves that he's wrong." But such unverified protestations can prove little, and it is only a matter of time and Postol's refusal to be silent, then, before the game comes crashing down on any attempt at cover-up.

### Editorial

## MIT Contributes Its Fair Share

The Cambridge City Council has recently discussed plans to get more money from MIT and Harvard to pay for the city budget and ease an impending rise in property taxes. MIT and Harvard, as educational,

non-profit institutions, do not pay property taxes on their extensive land holdings. Councillor Kenneth Reeves asserted that universities "are not sharing in the burden of taxation." Ultimately, it's up to MIT to assess its impact on the city and to make its case against taxation, but from *The Tech's* perspective, the numbers indicate Cambridge is already deeply indebted to MIT and Harvard, and that it should rethink its spending priorities before reaching for more money.

The Cambridge Council notes that 51 percent of land in Cambridge is not taxable, and much of that is owned by MIT or Harvard. However, Cambridge's primary expense is education; it comprises one third of the city's budget. The land owned by MIT and Harvard houses residents who almost never make use of Cambridge schools, and hence for the purposes of education funding, the city can be thought of as about half its geographical size, with a corresponding tax base. The nontaxable land is not relevant.

MIT and Harvard do, however, draw upon other city services, such as street maintenance, whatever policing the MIT Police forces do not undertake, and the doubtlessly positive externalities created by the publicly funded Cambridge Peace Commission and local Cable TV station. Do the universities pay sufficiently for such goods, or are we getting a free ride? Well, beyond the fee arrangements made directly between the universities and the city, where the universities pony up an annual chunk of cash (nearly \$3 million last year) for city officials, the universities contribute rather substantially otherwise. Examining a list of the top 25 employers in Cambridge (available on the Cambridge City Web site), one notices that Harvard and MIT are the number one and two employers in Cambridge, respectively. (In third? Cambridge City Government.) Throughout the rest of the list, you'll notice a plethora of biotech and startup companies whose existence can be directly attributed to work related to the universities. Not on the list but cumulatively significant are the numerous small businesses and restaurants patron-

All we can say that we hope that somehow, he's wrong. MIT could have a very serious problem on its hands here, one that casts a terrible pall over the entire campus and all its research activities. Former President Vest's legacy has been to increase federal funding for research — but if this is the cost, that that research must get the "right" answer or else face repression, this is worse than a tragic legacy; it is a stain on MIT's reputation with an unfortunate degree of permanence. There could be no worse crime than to turn scientific investigation into a parlor game. The allegations and MIT's blatant refusal to address them cast doubt on the institution's entire body of scientific research, and make Vest's bargain with Washington appear truly Faustian.

Whatever the holiday rush, whatever the excitement over transition to a new President, this is a history that won't change itself, and a problem that won't go away. We're not impressed with President Vest's handling of this case, to say the least. We expect it to dominate the institute's attentions in the near future, to our collective detriment.

Stay tuned.

ized by the students and associates of each of these universities. The universities are directly or indirectly responsible for much of the employment in the city of Cambridge, and hence are providing the source of most of the tax dollars that fund city budgets.

In addition to drawing thousands of students who continually import money from parents and loans to spend in the local economy, employing much of the city, drawing substantial tourism, and paying annually increasing multimillion dollar tribute to the city, the universities have other helpful programs. MIT sponsors collaborative projects with Cambridge Public Schools in which MIT students teach local kids science, SAT preparation, and basic tutoring at little or no cost.

Nationwide, there is a crisis over municipal budgets. The Nov. 29 *Boston Courier* reports that property taxes may double throughout Boston in five years, and notes that Chicago, Dallas, and New York face the same problem. In tough economic times, regular people tend to spend a bit less money, since they don't have as much. But in a letter accompanying the 2005 budget, City Manager Robert Healey notes that despite economic downturn, the city's "enviously strong financial condition has left us better prepared to deal with slowed local revenue growth." The Cambridge 2005 Budget increases expenditures 4.8 percent over the previous year, to \$362 million for the city's 95,000 residents.

There are a lot of demands on MIT's budget these days. Everyone who pays for health care, from janitors to graduate students, has been complaining about the rising cost of health insurance, and asking the university to shoulder more of the cost. A new dorm is in the whisperings-in-the-halls phase. Fraternities are asking for ongoing financial support, as they face troubles precipitated by a ban on freshmen living in their houses.

Harvard, however, has lots of money, and may be a more natural ally of the Cambridge political ethos. Maybe they can pay for everything; it probably doesn't hurt to ask, as the City Council well knows. But in the face of a national realization that nearly all government budgets are high enough that they demand new debt, taxes, or spending cuts, the City of Cambridge shouldn't be granted a free pass by using Harvard and MIT as ATMs.

## Overseeing Oversight

### Developing Management Solutions In the Wake of the Big Dig Fiasco

Vivek Rao

Recent reports detailing serious structural flaws in Big Dig construction may very well have been the last straw. The most expensive and ambitious infrastructure project in the history of the United States, the Big Dig has been fraught with problems since its conception. Skyrocketing costs, frequent postponements of the projected completion dates, allegations of fraud, and even an occasional investigative television report documenting boozing workers have been among the numerous black eyes associated with the Dig. Yet through it all, Bostonians could at least take heart in the simple fact that once construction was completed, the

city would be left with a jewel that would be the envy of the world and would catalyze a sort of Golden Age for the Hub. Until now.

The series of underground tunnels that compose the heart of the Big Dig appear to be riddled with minor leaks. Both contractors and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority have defended such leaks as normal, promising a typical approach of identifying and fixing such defects, but it is clear that something else is afoot. Big Dig tunnels have experienced major flooding more than once, including a major leak this past September.

So what happened? Consider what John MacDonald, chairman of the Big Dig's primary contractor Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, told lawmakers this past week. "Our

investigation to date indicates that we missed two opportunities to correct the specific wall problem ahead of time," MacDonald said. "We seriously regret not doing enough to prevent this incident. There is no satisfactory explanation for this."

Perhaps I can help. Like most companies, Bechtel was probably just out to maximize its profits, and supervisors no doubt made a calculated decision when weighing a 1999 engineer's report suggesting structural flaws against the cost of the repairs necessary to remedy those flaws.

As long as significant public works projects or other construction endeavors are handed over to private contracting compa-

Big Dig, Page 5

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Big Dig, from Page 4

nies, such decisions balancing public safety with profit maximization will inevitably ensue, and at least occasionally, safety will be overlooked.

Even the most steadfast optimists would likely agree that expecting companies to make ethically sound decisions and threatening hell should they not will not completely solve this problem. What is really needed is more competent and strict oversight.

A recent article in *The Boston Globe* ["Big Dig leak exposes failures, fuels debate," Nov. 21] suggests that officials who oversee the Big Dig failed to address the leak problem in a timely fashion, despite documents and evidence that should prompt immediate action:

"Since 1996, the state has paid roughly a half-million dollars for a 'Central Artery/Tunnel Project Oversight Committee' to coordinate oversight efforts by the state attorney general, the state auditor, and the state inspector general.

All three of those offices had access to Big Dig managers and contract documents describing the burgeoning leak problem. Still, the pervasive problem came to light only after the *Globe* detailed it this month."

The lack of efficient and intelligent investigation on the part of a committee in charge of overseeing a \$14.6 billion project should at the very least rattle our faith in the system of accountability imposed on companies in charge of massive building projects. Granted, one poorly run project does not make a trend,

but there is little reason for us laypeople to assume that other projects are free from such a plight. After all, there tends to be a lack of transparency in these situations until a major problem has already occurred.

This is not just a problem that the government needs to worry about. In the past decade alone, MIT has taken on at least three huge construction projects in the form of Simmons Hall, the Stata Center, and the new brain and cognitive sciences building. All have been or are being carried out by private contractors. Had construction of Simmons and Stata been a remarkably smooth process, oversight may have been a merely secondary concern. However, both buildings cost roughly 50 percent more than initial estimates, no doubt prompting skepticism from some members of the MIT community wondering about the factors involved in the cost overruns.

It would be foolish to automatically assume that all contracted infrastructure projects are poorly run. That said, especially in the context of the Big Dig's numerous problems and inefficiencies, oversight and public perception of that oversight demand significant attention, perhaps from the Sloan School. In the absence of satisfactorily competent and clearly publicized oversight committees, a Big Dig induced phobia will no doubt scar the public's opinion of any building projects that run into difficulties, and that does not bode well for an institution like MIT that has shown a clear commitment to ambitious and cutting edge construction.

*The lack of efficient and intelligent investigation on the part of a committee in charge of overseeing a \$14.6 billion project should at the very least rattle our faith in the system of accountability imposed on companies in charge of massive building projects.*

# Context Crucial to Religious Interpretation

Ahmed E. Ismail

Ken Nesmith's column ["Reading the Whole Bible," Dec. 3] was (as always) a thought-provoking one. However, his assertion that "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" deserves further analysis.

## Letter To The Editor

The most frequently cited of the verses being referred to is verse 9.5, which translates roughly as follows:

9.5 "So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them; surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

This verse unequivocally calls for violence. Yet, historically, we also see that the three hundred years between the expansion of the Islamic empire and the start of the Crusades, when the Muslims had achieved political and physical domination over the Holy Land, was a period of relative peace and co-existence among followers of all three Abrahamic faiths. If Muslims are supposed to slay non-Muslims, as this verse obviously commands, why were there not wholesale massacres of Jews and Christians during the eighth through 10th centuries?

The explanation for this apparent conundrum is context. The verse does not exist in isolation, but is part of a larger injunction. To see this, look at the four verses before it and the verse after it; in other words, start at verse 9.1:

9.1 "[This is a declaration of] immunity by Allah and His Apostle towards those of the idolaters with whom you made an agreement."

9.2 "So go about in the land for four months and know that you cannot weaken Allah and that Allah will bring disgrace to the unbelievers."

9.3 "And an announcement from Allah and His Apostle to the people on the day of the

greater pilgrimage that Allah and His Apostle are free from liability to the idolaters; therefore if you repent, it will be better for you, and if you turn back, then know that you will not weaken Allah; and announce painful punishment to those who disbelieve."

9.4 "Except those of the idolaters with whom you made an agreement, then they have not failed you in anything and have not backed up any one against you, so fulfill their agreement to the end of their term; surely Allah loves those who are careful (of their duty)."

9.5 "So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them; surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

9.6 "And if one of the idolaters seek protection from you, grant him protection till he hears the word of Allah, then make him attain his place of safety; this is because they are a people who do not know."

The "contract" being referred to was a peace treaty signed with various local tribes, which was broken when those tribes attacked the fledgling Muslim community. What we find from this is that the problematic verse was revealed in response to a specific issue, and therefore cannot be construed as a general call to arms against non-Muslims. We even note that in this specific case, people who chose not to break the treaty were not to be attacked, and mercy was to be shown to those who chose to surrender.

I subscribe to Mr. Nesmith's view that adherents should not attempt to cherry-pick in matters of faith. However, I also believe that it is wrong to demand that people justify their faith on a line-by-line basis, which is what Mr. Nesmith appears to imply in his column. The issue of context is central to the role of faith in modern times. Understanding that our faith, whatever it may be, must evolve to encompass the situations we deal with every day forces us to determine what are the essential teachings of the various faiths, and how to incorporate those core principles into our lives.

Ahmed E. Ismail is a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

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## Trio

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by Emezie Okorafor

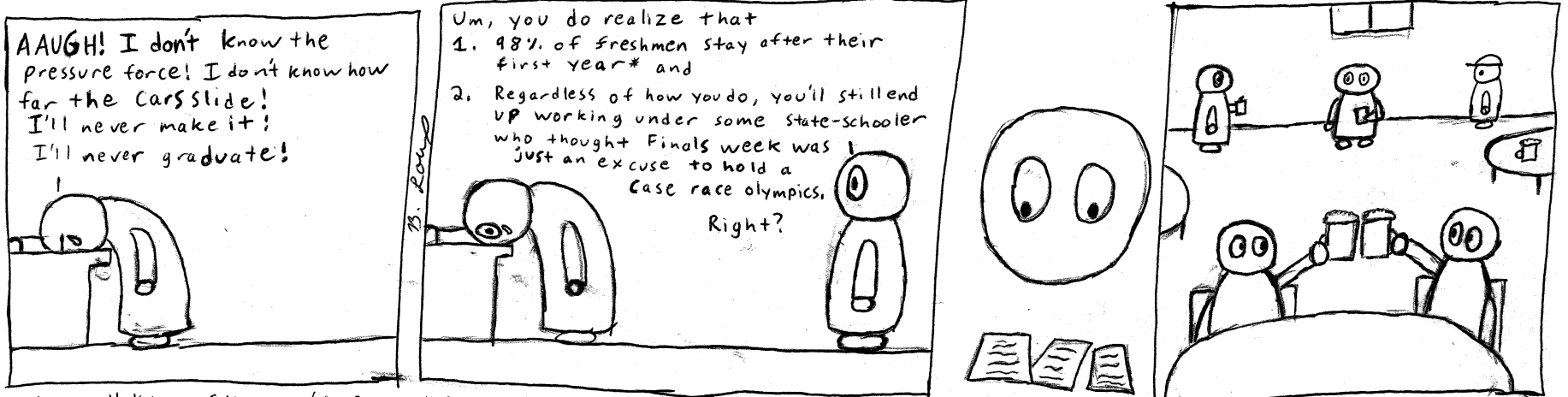


We interrupt Halo again for:

## A Freshmen Finals PSA

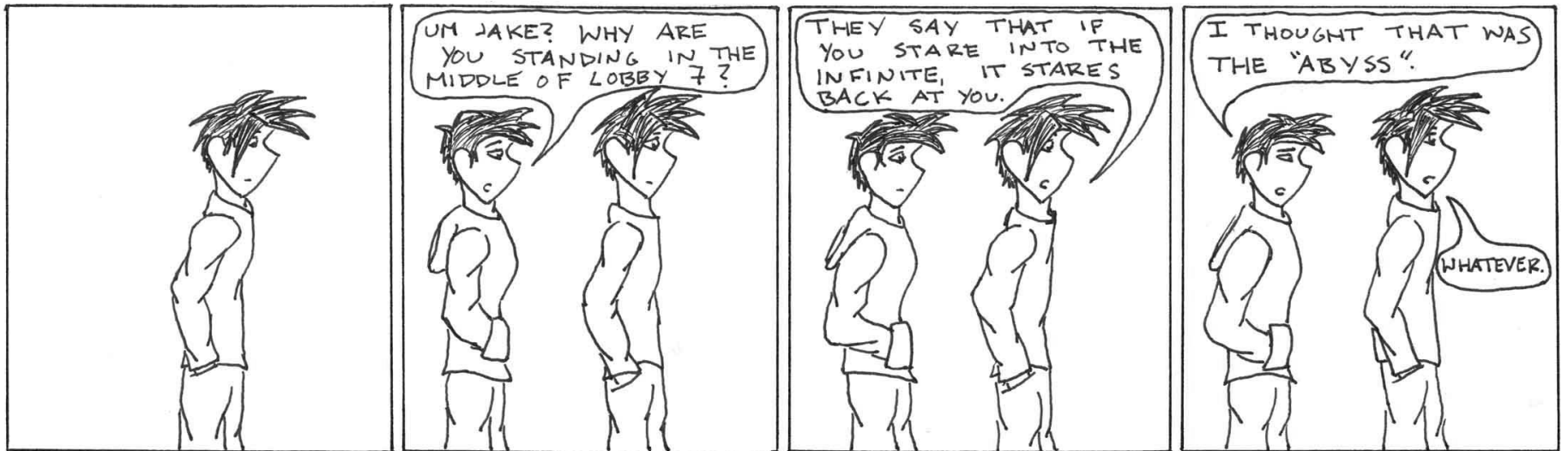
\* Source: Dean Redwine

by Brian Loux



## Deviants from the Norm

by A.K. Turza



[014] STARING DOWN THE INFINITE

2004 © A.K. TURZA

## Terminal Conditions

By Daniel P. Corson  
Solution, page 16

### ACROSS

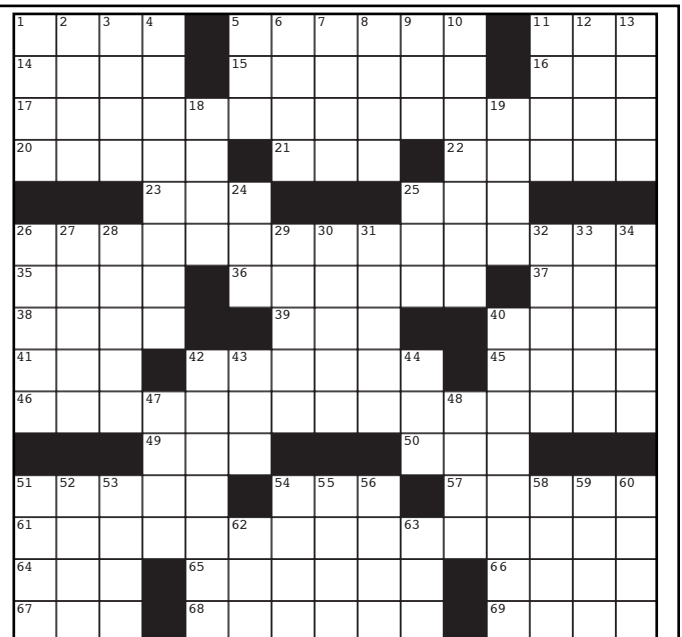
- 1 \_\_\_ breve
- 5 Popular database software
- 11 Accounting prof.
- 14 Ukraine capital
- 15 Elements author
- 16 Here, to Horace
- 17 What you pay for at the end?
- 20 Watts of The Ring
- 21 Flanders of The Simpsons
- 22 Convergent
- 23 NFL half
- 25 Alive affix
- 26 Why pre-recs don't help?
- 35 West African country
- 36 Prepares to mop
- 37 Passing grade
- 38 Others, to Ovid
- 39 Tech. sch. of TV
- 40 Brief Berkeley preceder
- 41 XXXI multiple
- 42 Marilyn or James
- 45 Empty set
- 46 Continued success hope?
- 49 Paris-Berlin dir.
- 50 High-temp. polymerase
- 51 Hit with open hand

### DOWN

- 54 Nu followers
- 57 German sausage
- 61 Crunch-time you saw coming?
- 64 Brazil city, briefly
- 65 Pulled someones chain
- 66 Zodiac August animal
- 67 Desire
- 68 Stagnations
- 69 Mu and care extender
- 1 Related
- 2 Soviet biochemist Stern
- 3 Dune duke Atreides
- 4 Traditional prayer: 2 wds.
- 5 MS registration num.
- 6 Devastate
- 7 Pimples
- 8 Dressed in
- 9 Dem.
- 10 Enlightens morally
- 11 Style
- 12 Pocket bread
- 13 -RCO functional group
- 18 Fissure
- 19 Cloth-weaving machine
- 24 Wrist nerve disord.

### DOWN

- 25 MS image format
- 26 Loud kiss
- 27 Actress Berry
- 28 Yellowish-green color
- 29 Ex-Knick Patrick
- 30 Reviving past style
- 31 Imitator's cry: 2 wds.
- 32 Happen
- 33 Domain
- 34 Shouts
- 40 Pairs with a better
- 42 Simians
- 43 Technical non-prime
- 44 This-coast summer time std.
- 47 Ant and ing preceder
- 48 Make bronzy, back in the day
- 51 Nimble
- 52 Pray, to Pierre
- 53 Agent Flux of anime
- 54 TV warrior princess
- 55 Vexes
- 56 Captain Hook cohort
- 58 Baseball stats.
- 59 Gin type
- 60 Watch over
- 62 Tit for \_\_\_
- 63 Psyche divisions



**KRT Crossword**

Solution, page 18

- ACROSS**
- 1 Concrete
  - 6 Avid
  - 10 Tatted material
  - 14 Loos or Baker
  - 15 Puzzle cube inventor Rubik
  - 16 Woeful word
  - 17 "Skittle Players" painter
  - 18 Big help
  - 19 Steiger and Stewart
  - 20 Curvaceous shape
  - 23 Science class
  - 24 Electron tube parts
  - 25 Glossy paint
  - 29 Dillon of "Drugstore Cowboy"
  - 31 Verdi opera
  - 32 Book after Joel
  - 34 Ruhr industrial city
  - 39 Anthony Burgess novel, with "A"
  - 42 Wiesbaden's state
  - 43 Short race
  - 44 Scott Joplin works
  - 45 Duplicate
  - 47 Acapulco buddies
  - 49 Whitener
  - 53 Dryly humorous
  - 54 Lillian Hellman play, with
- DOWN**
- 1 Window part
  - 2 Not taken in by
  - 3 Stead
  - 4 Roman road
  - 5 Hang loosely
  - 6 Shish
  - 7 God of love
  - 8 Baseball's Slaughter
  - 9 Dieting adjective
  - 10 "Key"
  - 11 For all to hear
  - 12 Core group
  - 13 Double curves
  - 21 Susan Dey series
- "The"**
- 61 Oriental nanny
  - 62 Eight in Barcelona
  - 63 Shadings
  - 64 Back of the neck
  - 65 Beach toy
  - 66 Grow dark, perhaps
  - 67 God of war
  - 68 Of sound mind
  - 69 Wear away
- 22 Bury
  - 25 To \_\_\_ his own
  - 26 Cleopatra's river
  - 27 Hubbubs
  - 28 Apple PCs
  - 29 Erin of "Happy Days"
  - 30 Invites
  - 33 \_\_\_ vivendi (ways of life)
  - 35 Indian garb
  - 36 Hitch
  - 37 Trademark waffle
  - 38 Highland loch
  - 40 Two-masted vessel
  - 41 Chicago hub
  - 46 Hooting cries
  - 48 \_\_\_ Beach, SC
  - 49 Bob Hope film, "Call Me \_\_\_"
  - 50 Hunt or Alexander
  - 51 Day's march
  - 52 Dull pains
  - 53 In one piece
  - 55 College sports org.
  - 56 Slender
  - 57 Winter frost
  - 58 Toward the center
  - 59 Requisite
  - 60 Feudal serf

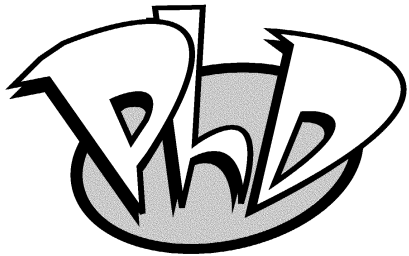
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67												

**Bonus Crossword**

Solution, page 13

- ACROSS**
- 1 "\_\_\_ the night before..."
  - 5 Coarse file
  - 9 Confuse
  - 14 Oldsters' grp.
  - 15 Villainous
  - 16 Had the nerve
  - 17 Start of a quip
  - 20 Golfers' shouts
  - 21 Bishopric
  - 22 True up
  - 23 Fish entree
  - 29 Part 2 of quip
  - 31 Dutch commune
  - 32 Encourages in wrongdoing
  - 33 Gaelic tongue
  - 34 Pub. submissions
  - 35 Either part of a fly?
  - 37 Attendee's answer
  - 40 Pants fold
  - 43 Flatfoot
  - 46 Part 3 of quip
  - 50 Surveillance jobs
  - 51 Decoy
  - 52 Writer Beattie
  - 53 Uproar
  - 54 End of quip
- DOWN**
- 1 Skater Babilonia
  - 2 Spoke evasively
  - 3 Ornate wardrobe
  - 4 Sprinkle
  - 5 R.E. Lee's troops
  - 6 5th or Lex.
  - 7 Bro's sib
  - 8 Blood fluids
  - 9 Element of a total
  - 10 Smidgen
  - 11 Actress Joanne
  - 12 Permit to
  - 13 Asner and Sullivan
  - 18 Meddlesome women
  - 19 Light gas
  - 22 Wonderment
  - 23 Soap ingredient
  - 24 Superlative ending
- 25 Koko's dagger
  - 26 Royal pronoun
  - 27 Some linemen: abbr.
  - 28 Language suffix
  - 30 Archaic: abbr.
  - 34 Humbly patient
  - 35 Russian chess master
  - 36 Engraver's tool
  - 37 Towel word
  - 38 NYC summer hrs.
  - 39 Sony rival
  - 40 Having a potbelly
  - 41 Ignited
  - 42 Two in nine?
  - 43 Collided and rebounded
  - 44 Excess
  - 45 For each
  - 47 Brought up
  - 48 Theater award
  - 49 Rush headlong
  - 53 Trees with needles
  - 54 Small viper
  - 55 # of Kubrick's movie?
  - 56 Long, long time
  - 57 AAA suggestion
  - 58 \_\_\_ polloi
  - 59 Music genre
  - 60 Male offspring

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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## ARTS

## FILM REVIEW ★★★

## 'Twelve' Ought To Do It, Don't You Think?

## More Wit and Suspense in 'Ocean' Sequel

By Nivair H. Gabriel

*Ocean's Twelve*  
 Directed by Steven Soderbergh  
 Written by George Nolfi  
 Produced by Jerry Weintraub  
 Starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Andy Garcia, Don Cheadle, Bernie Mac, and Julia Roberts  
 Warner Bros. Pictures  
 Rated PG-13  
 Opens Friday, December 10, 2004

**O**cean's Twelve" fulfilled so many of my holiday wishes. I've been wondering since 2001, when the eleven most charming men in the world swindled the ruthless casino owner Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia), if Benedict would ever return to exact his revenge. There was nothing more bonechilling than watching Benedict bust in on the group's carefully concealed lives, accompanied by his familiar intimidating thugs. As far as excuses for a sequel go, Benedict's vindication was a nice one.

Like the majority of filmgoers who saw the popular "Ocean's Eleven," I've been imitating writer Ted Griffin's lines, laughing at his jokes over and over again, and reveling in the opportunity to watch the actors work their magic again in Twelve. Soderbergh indulged this desire, first showing us the playful Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt) pick up his old Tyler Durden-ish tricks in a hilarious opening scene.

Then, Benedict enters the plot: Andy Garcia sucks the joy out of every radiant thief by giving them a two-week ultimatum to pay his \$160 million back with interest, or die. From that moment, a whirlwind plot full of new angles begins — this time around, the eleven are less worried about planning than they are about escaping.

That doesn't mean, however, that they

can't still be slick. Despite some regrettable shoe choices, every character in Ocean's Twelve is dressed to impress and filled with snappy lines, quick comebacks, and amazing charisma. Linus Caldwell (Matt Damon) is a notable exception, acting as comic relief for the most part, but Damon can not be in a movie without a few priceless moments, and he certainly has them here. Though Catherine Zeta-Jones and Pitt, who are paired off a number of times, don't have nearly the chemistry that Pitt has with Clooney, they are talented enough actors to lend tasteful intrigue to the plot.

George Nolfi picked up right where Griffin left off: the story doesn't lose an ounce of suspense, though it gains quite a bit of complexity, and the humor that made "Ocean's Eleven" endearing is very much alive in its sequel. The race for payback is made all the better by the snazzy, active soundtrack, which is very well matched to the style and mood of the film. Soderbergh's presentation again shines, just as much as it did in "Ocean's Eleven."

Soderbergh, however, repeated one mistake — casting Julia Roberts. The less



Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, and George Clooney star in the sequel "Ocean's Twelve."

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

screen time she has, the better; her portrayal of her character is formulaic at best, and she doesn't resonate at all with the rest of Ocean's team. Far too much screen time is spent in worship of Roberts, and I'd rather have basked in the great comic abilities of Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, or Bernie Mac, whose roles were smaller in Twelve.

Newcomers pleasantly spiced up the brew. Vincent Cassel's lighthearted portrayal of his character provides some excellent entertainment — and not because his presence affords

an opportunity to mock the French. Zeta-Jones was marvelous as usual, and it was a joy to see the strong female presence that Roberts couldn't offer in "Ocean's Eleven." Though Eddie Izzard's role was not large, the wacky British comedian tripled the amusement of what could have been an unnecessary cameo.

For those with a weakness for heist flicks, a love of the modern Rat Pack, or any taste in movies at all, Ocean's Twelve — to steal a term from the script itself — really is a Smuggler's Paradise.

## CONCERT REVIEW

## MITSO Performs John Harbison

## Chamber Orchestra Contributes Corelli

By Bogdan Fedeles

STAFF WRITER

MIT Symphony Orchestra  
 Conducted by Dante Anzolini  
 Kresge Auditorium  
 Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

**F**or their second concert this term, the MIT Symphony Orchestra (MITSO), conducted by Dante Anzolini, reunited campus fans and classical music aficionados. The ambitious, yet exquisite, program had a little bit for everyone's taste, but the focus was on early 20th century music, with Ravel and Debussy. Two welcomed surprises were the Boston premiere of John Harbison's Partita, and the chamber music interlude offered by MIT Chamber Orchestra, which performed a Concerto Grosso by Corelli. Had it not been for these surprises, the concert wouldn't have been too exciting. This is not because Ravel's or Debussy's

pieces aren't that great, but the performance they received was somewhat unyielding. The addition of the solidly-performed baroque (Corelli) and neo-baroque (Harbison) elements to the lavishly descriptive French music clearly saved the day at the end of the concert.

Indeed, Arcangelo Corelli's "Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No.8," also known as the "Christmas Concerto" was an inspired insert to the program and also promoted the much younger Chamber Orchestra (founded only a few years ago), which never seems to make it into the spotlight. The good performance offered was certainly pleasant and welcomed, combining intrepid soloists with solid ensemble work, good balance, and strong sense of direction. Corelli's piece proves to be quite capricious and experimental (plenty of movements and many tempo changes), which gives ample opportunities to showcase a wide range of musical expres-

sions. The Chamber Orchestra definitely took advantage of these opportunities and delivered the piece beautifully, especially the magistral finale chorale in major key — the Holiday spirit of Christmas.

By contrast, MITSO's rendition of Ravel's "Rapsodie espagnole" was not as fulfilling. Ravel's rhythmic clockwork and delicate orchestrations of Spanish dances did not sound truly convincing, often because the ensemble seemed shaky and surprised by the turns of the piece. This was like a version of Ravel one hears when playing an ancient record on a barely functional turntable.

Debussy's piece "La mer" fared better, because the strength of Debussy's music is not precision (like Ravel's), but mostly the color and the nuances. The highly descriptive interplay of winds and waves which lies at the heart of the piece, came out very musical and picturesque, the windings of the music following closely the agitation of the sea and the emotions it elicits. The orchestra seemed confident handling both the expansive sonorities of the climaxes and the subdued, graceful transitions. The softer parts were less hesitant and most expressive, and hence, they were especially enjoyable.

However, the main focus of the evening was the Boston premiere of "Partita for orchestra," composed by institute professor and widely acclaimed composer John Harbison. The composer in the audience watched rather restlessly as MITSO brought to life one of his latest creations, a piece whose movements are constructed formally by intersecting two typical baroque forms in very ingenious and elaborate ways. The result is fascinating and especially appealing to the mathematically inclined MIT spirit.

The first movement (Prelude-Fantasia) starts off declamatory,

as an apt introduction (prelude); yet, very soon, the main idea is taken over by the strings section, becoming meditative and winding, typical for a fantasy. The energy of the opening comes back as a steady pulse, eventually merging with the winding fantasy idea and eliciting a recapitulation of the opening statement, this time subdued.

The second movement (Rondo-Capriccio) develops the idea of duets, which is in fact another way of expressing the bipolar approach of the piece. The capricious episodes that alternate with an elaborate rondo subject often feature groups of instruments in pairs (two percussionists playing together, two solo violins, two flutes and two oboes, a solo string quartet, etc). The exquisite sonority of soloists emerging from the heavy orchestral tuttis was particularly striking and enjoyable; this was also due to very convincing performances.

The slow movement that follows (Aria-Sarabande) starts with a singing and sighing motif which is slowly darkened, re-orchestrated and eventually amplified into an eruption of sound dominated by a very elaborate percussion rumbling effect. Here the instrumentation choices are very imaginative, yet appropriate for the intense atmosphere intended.

Finally, the last movement (Courante-Gigue) takes the merging idea very literally. The themes for the courante and gigue are exactly the same, only the gigue starts later in the movement and it moves much faster so that, by the end, the two converge. This movement was especially amazing, as the syncopated theme is quite memorable and one can clearly hear both ideas (slow and fast) fighting for the front stage, while chasing each other to the uncompromising end.

MITSO delivered a solid performance of Harbison's piece, showing once more that it has the skill and dedication to deal with contemporary music, and not just superficially. They deliver reference renditions of fresh masterpieces, such as this Partita. A very nervous Harbison rushed to the stage, to offer his thanks to the orchestra, the conductor and, of course, the large audience applauding at the end of the concert.



YUN WU

MIT Symphony Orchestra members Madeleine Baverstam, Brian M. Kardon '08, and Clare E. Davis '06 perform at the Winter Concert last Friday in Kresge Auditorium.

## CD REVIEW

# 'Street's Disciple' Conflicted Yet Cohesive

## Nas' Double-Album Runs the Gamut From Exogamy to Political Efficacy

By Philip Burrowes

*Street's Disciple*

Nas

Sony BMG

Released November 30

Nasir "Nas" Jones is the type of rapper who begs to be taken seriously, but whose work just doesn't hold up under extreme scrutiny. He either says something ignorant which undercuts his philosophical aspirations, or he retreats wholesale into superficial imagery. The cover to his new double-album "Street's Disciple" fits both perceptions as he reenacts the Last Supper by playing the part of Jesus and all twelve Apostles. At first glance it simultaneously suggests egomania and schizophrenia, not a good combination if you want two records worth of a coherent theme. Somehow, the double-disc format makes this mix work, as he takes us on a track-by-track journey through his multiple viewpoints.

Disc One is a nihilist criticism of the here and now, with seventies-heavy sampling that recalls the early nineties. "A Message to the Feds..." espouses the post-Great Society belief that the government is "out to get" Blacks in America while "American Way" reminds us that this is a bipartisan effort: "The Black vote mean nathan/ Who you gonna elect / Satan or Satan"? It's with "Coon Picnic" that Nas transcends riling against the system by calling to light the self-destructive capabilities of his audience rather than blaming it all on The Man.

Beyond berating the exploitative elements of "Black television" that Spike Lee and Aaron McGruder have already taken flack for documenting, he condemns Kobe Bryant for perpetuating slavery-era stereotypes with violence against white women: "From OJ to Kobe/ Let's call them Toby." Next up to get shot down are fellow rappers, from whom Nas distances himself on "Disciple": "This ain't Fifty / This ain't Jigga / This ain't Diddy / This ain't pretty." It's not uncommon to claim more "realness" than your competitors, but he takes down these hip-pop stars along with the new-wave of so-called conscious rap

that is in some ways his progenitor. He follows with two tracks where he masquerades as a female collaborator under the nom de guerre "Scarlett."

Lyrical, they still fit with the disc's theme of ultimate impotence and irrationality by dealing with power of death over possession. It's not a pleasant story, but it comes across more realistic than pessimistic. On the second disc, however, he takes on a positive yet equally practical perspective. The funk backgrounds of the first disc are replaced by an eclectic mix R&B samples, acoustic blues, vocal percussion and even some Iron Butterfly interpretations. Each new sound evokes the different slices of life Nas loves, so the production melds into an overarching theme even if it doesn't blend sonically.

At the beginning, it seems Nas has fallen back into the commercialist demands of the industry, with the radio-friendly Busta Rhymes providing a worthless cameo. What differentiates the delineation of street life here from that on the prior disc is that Nas openly admits his temporal separation from the street: "With wifey touring / My life get boring / Start to remember / All types of torment." It's no longer a critique on the contemporary, but an almost wistful reminiscence.

Sometimes the nostalgia is in the text, as with his "prehumous" eulogizing of Rakim with "U.B.R." On "Virgo," the September-born Nas collaborates with Zodiac cohorts Ludacris and Doug E. Fresh that stylistically recalls the days when beat boxing wasn't reserved for a cappella groups. In a duet with his musician father, Nas reaches back both lyrically and orchestrally, reifying hip-hop's connection to the American singing tradition: "Old school, new school, no school rules / All these years I've been voicing my blues." Nas so loves his craft that he toys with making the love song "Getting Married" into the cliché concerning matrimony with music: "Will you take music as your wedded wife / I do / Psyche, this ain't about music / Y'all know who I'm talking to."

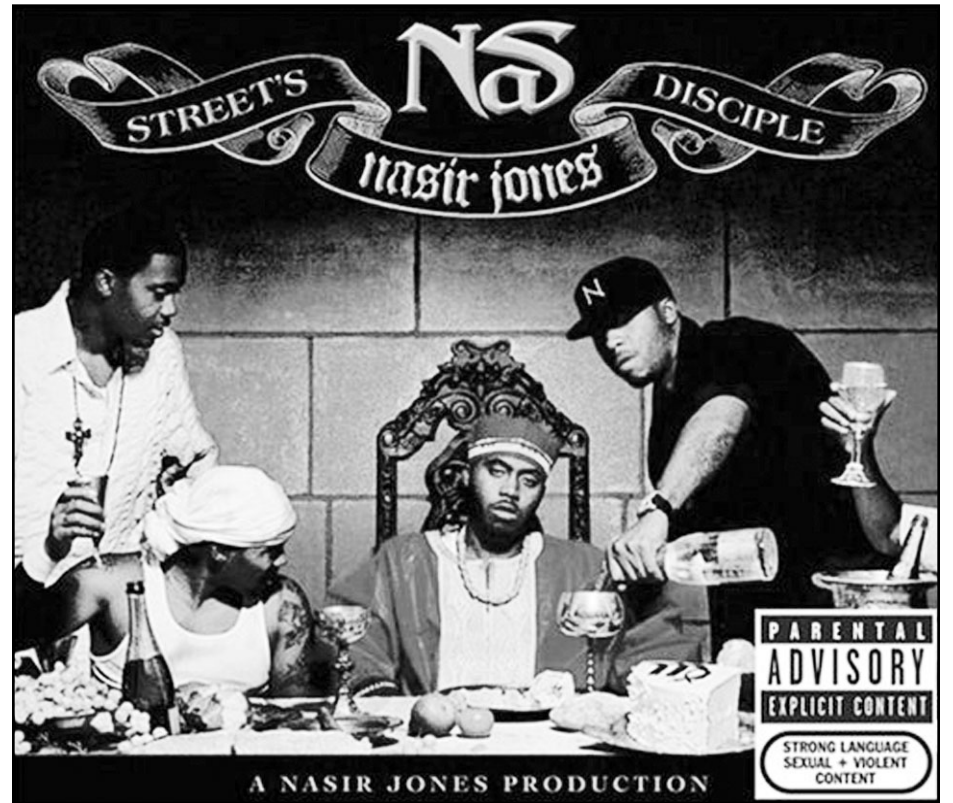
His human inamorata is the singer Kelis, and while she guests on the first disc, it is on the second that she shines, albeit as subject and not performer. Besides being the true

topic of "Getting Married," she provides the impetus for his litany of past sexual conquests on the misogynistic yet melliflously produced "Remember the Times." Presumably she is also the eponymous ideal of "The Makings of a Perfect Bitch," an overextension of the old "lady in public, whore in the bedroom" concept.

From his fiancée to his father, Nas then moves onto his daughter Destiny. "War" details the difficulties he had with Destiny's mother, managing to stay away from directly addressing her rumored affair with Jay-Z. Keon Bryce provides a hook that's so soothing you'd assume it's a sample. "Me & You," on the other hand, is a saccharine singsong tribute to Destiny herself: "Daddy just wanna show you / All the heartache I go through." Any fans disappointed by the filial emotionality of Nas' previous album will be disturbed

outright by his paternal fawning. It's a bit hokey, but an interesting change of pace. In any case, its presence is buffered by the bonus "Garden of Eden" — sampling "Thief's Theme."

The second disc's maudlin self-indulgence would be impossible without the cynical external focus of the first, but by itself the first would just be a slightly more clever iteration on old themes. Combining the two allows Nas to explore his multiple identities yet maintain a unified Street's Disciple experience. Moreover, while artists from Outkast to Nelly jack up the price for their extended work, Street's Disciple's MSRP is that of many other single-records. On the iTunes Music Store, it actually retails at the base \$9.99 tag. With a wealth of both quality and quantity, this double-album merits actually buying.



Rapper Nas shines in his new double-album "Street's Disciple."

## CONCERT REVIEW

# Chorallaries Chant and Strip in Concert

## MIT A Capella Group Capitalizes On Background Vocals

By Mario Marrufo

*Chorallaries*

54-100

Dec. 4, 8:30 p.m.

I'd never seen a Chorallaries concert before, so I went into their concert hoping that the Chorallaries would sing in tune and knowing that they would perform "The Engineer's Drinking Song." Happily,

they met my expectations.

The concert was opened by "The Method," a Berklee all-male a capella group. They were obviously a group with an extensive knowledge of music and, for the most part, they put that knowledge to good use. Their best moments featured rather complex jazz vocal arrangements and effective uses of improvisation. The majority of the songs they performed were jazzy. For their finale, they mixed it up slightly by singing "Pride (In the

Name of Love)" by U2. Though modern rock is usually not the best genre to arrange in an a capella setting, their performance of "Pride" was acceptable, and with some struggle the lead singer was able to hit all the notes Bono hits.

This leads me to another disappointing aspect of The Method's performance. I found that although the background harmonies were consistently very tight and nearly flawless, the lead vocalists often failed to capitalize on this. No, they were almost never out of tune, but they didn't make an effort to shine. Overall, though, The Method were an enjoyable experience and fitting introduction to the Chorallaries.

The Chorallaries began with the Puddle of Mudd hit "Drift & Die," which is another modern rock song. The same complaint (mind you, it's just about the only complaint) I had with The Method showed up here too, especially in their performance of "Broken" by Seether with Amy Lee of Evanescence. The female lead in this song often failed to compete

with the male lead in terms of sheer volume. Of course, it's a rather difficult song to sing, because the two leads are trying to harmonize with each other while singing radically different pitches several times during the song. However, I did like the more or less faithful adaptation of the music into the vocal arrangement, especially the strings section near the end.

A lead who gave a strong vocal performance was Prathima Nardivada '06, who sang Alicia Keys' "If I Ain't Got You." I was truly impressed at how well she was able to stand out.

Between every few songs, the Chorallaries would break up the musical tension with a running skit about the history of nerds. There were a few funny moments here, including the ancient Egyptian engineer who attempted to hit on Cleopatra with a pick-up line along the lines of "I think I'm imaginary. I sure have 'i's for you." Another was the engineer of King Arthur who used butter from a cow to reduce the friction of the chains in his drawbridge, which is how he came up with the coefficient, "moo."

The highlight of the show was when the Chorallaries succumbed to years of chanting, and sang "Africa," by Toto. The introduction was rather clever, containing tribal rhythms and animal noises. Once again, the background vocals were excellent, but by the time lead singer Andrew Harlan '07 took off his concert shirt to reveal an unbuttoned Leopard Shirt after the first chorus, I got the idea that he was attempting to make up for his weak falsetto with sex appeal. It's a poor substitute, but I suppose it's working for Justin Timberlake.

This concert, which turned out to be fun despite its missteps, culminated in a rendition of "The Engineer's Drinking Song." To me, this made the entire concert worth attending, especially since the vocal performance was practically flawless, as there was no lead.



JIMMY CHEUNG—THE TECH

The Chorallaries pose for the end of "Times Like These" by Foo Fighters. The song was the first of two encore performances. The concert took place in 54-100 on Saturday night.

## CONCERT REVIEW

# Twin Rock Stars Next Big Thing

## Tegan and Sara Deliver a Fresh Sound

By Brian Stephenson

Tegan and Sara  
Middle East Club  
Nov. 30, 10:30 p.m.

For those of you who are tired of formulaic pop songs but find it hard to get into alternative rock with no musical “hook” to keep you interested, you may be pleasantly surprised by the up-and-coming Canadian group, Tegan and Sara. The group is headed by twin sisters, Tegan and Sara Quin, who play guitar and provide vocals. Despite being twins, the sisters have very different, but complementary, singing styles and vocal ranges. Sara’s voice is much higher than Tegan’s — so much higher that unfortunately it didn’t come across very well on the sound system at the Middle East. Some of her high vocals sounded squeaky, in stark contrast to the CD.

The sisters are backed up by Ted Gowans on guitar and keyboard, Rob Chursinoff on drums and the tambourine, and Chris Carlson on bass. The group has toured with bands such as Ben Folds, Neil Young, and The Pretenders, among others, and are currently out promoting their new CD, “So Jealous.”

Tegan and Sara kicked the night off with two lively songs that, while keeping a lot of creative distance from pop music, didn’t shy away from catchy themes. My favorite was

“I Hear Noises,” which combined a great rock beat, catchy melody, and funky improvisations. They followed these songs with the slower “Not Tonight,” from their 2002 CD, “If It Was You.” Unfortunately, by the end of the song, chatting among concertgoers at the back of the room was almost as loud as the group’s vocals.

Next, Tegan announced they were going to play some songs from their new CD, kicking things off with “I Know, I Know, I Know.” Easily the catchiest track on their new album, it wouldn’t surprise me if this song shows up on pop radio stations in the near future.

Between songs, Tegan and Sara took turns delivering monologues. Neither appeared at all self-conscious in front of a crowd—Sara in particular seemed to enjoy telling long, expletive-filled narratives for the crowd’s amusement. As she put it, “I don’t support drugs, I don’t support drinking, I don’t support dropping out of school, I don’t support Bush [cheers from the audience], but I do support swearing.”

As the night progressed, the band kept a good balance between fast and slow songs. The poppy “Walking With a Ghost” was particularly well-received. During slower numbers like “I Can’t Take It” and “Fix You Up,” there was a lot of talking in the crowd, although there was plenty of applause at the end of each song.

When nearby audience members found

out I was writing an article on the band, they were eager to talk about why they loved their music — even when the group was playing a song. In my part of the audience, it seemed like the concert was more of an excuse to hang out than to enjoy the music, and the constant background noise from people chatting really surprised me. Granted, this isn’t music that you can mosh to, but if you’re really a fan, I would think you’d want to listen to the music.

Despite distractions from the crowd, I enjoyed the evening’s performance. Tegan and Sara had a great stage presence and performed quirky, catchy songs that I found

running through my head long after the concert finished. Overall it was a strong performance, and I expect to see (and hear) much more of Tegan and Sara in the future.



Tegan and Sara Quin performed at the Middle East Club to an enthusiastic crowd.

## BOOK REVIEW

# And Here We Thought Our Lives Mattered

## Tom Wolfe On Sex and Status in Elite Academia

By Ken Nesmith

STAFF WRITER

*I am Charlotte Simmons*  
Written by Tom Wolfe  
Published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux  
688 pages  
Nov. 9, 2004

Meet Tom Wolfe, master of snobs. Wolfe’s worlds are constructed around details of social rating, where all existence is interpreted through the lens of social judgment. Status consciousness determines social behavior, Wolfe tells us in a *New York Times* interview. In practice, this means that Wolfe’s characters interact on the basis of wealth, power, and sex — especially sex.

In “I am Charlotte Simmons,” Wolfe takes on the world of undergraduate life at an elite university. He resumes all of his favorite old habits. We get any and all crowds likened to animal gatherings. We get profuse, crude, and imaginary rap lyrics that, set off in italics, appear silly (Yo, you take my testi-culls, Suck ‘em like a popsi-cull) until you expose real rap lyrics to the harsh treatment of writing them down. We hear regional accents by reading the spoken words, and then reading Wolfe’s version of what the words sounded like, a repetition that frequently becomes mockery. Each few chapters feature a few new vocabulary words (semaphore, rheostat, métier) that reappear in conspicuous proximity until

falling back out of use.

Give Wolfe credit for his hard work. Wolfe, who generally wears white suits, changed to blend in with undergrads as he toured college campuses around the country, so as to make spot-on satire of campus existence. The school he creates, Dupont, is a Frankenstein of the bests; the best athletics, the best academics (besting Harvard, Yale, and Princeton), the most wealthy, and so forth. The dynamics of the frat-party scene, the fitness center, and freshmen year dorm adventures are recreated faithfully and entertainingly. This is Wolfe’s trademark, and he hits a home run here.

By reading Wolfe, one gets the sense that any portrayal entails belittlement. Throbbing prose paints a world through the eyes of characters who are invariably flawed and small-minded, surmountable and dissolute. Anything we see in “Simmons” is filtered through their eyes, and through their petty mental constructs, inviting our dismissal. Wolfe writes so powerfully and so clearly that most of the time, we are inclined to nod and chuckle in agreement with him.

Finish “Simmons,” and it stays with you. Pick up any other book in its wake, and the prose seems dull and stilted by comparison. Where’s the florid, sometimes tumescent detail, lighting up each scene for us, cutting to the core of the social dynamics in any situation? Books aside, take a walk in real life: where’s the white-suited man in the corner, quietly cataloging minutiae for ammo to

expose this scene for the absurdity that it (probably) is?

One must make an effort to remember the hiding norms that Wolfe refuses to concretize, perhaps because he himself is unsure of them. In the face of stunningly effective, quietly nihilistic satire, we should validate what in existence has worth, lest we be left to wallow in sexual status competitions. Making such a conscious effort does indeed dull the power of his work; it constrains its roaring narration and social commentary and exposes the fairly thin, limited plot.

Wolfe’s world-view is flawed, or incomplete. He has difficulty handling human emotion that does not relate to sociological competition. In a chapter about move-in day at Dupont, we get laborious assessment of status-revealing details and intricate emotional and sociological interface between Charlotte’s rural family and her roommate’s blue-blood elite clan. But when Charlotte feels a pang of a different emotion, the simple, universal feeling of homesickness, Wolfe gives her not more than a line, and an obligatory few paragraphs of hugs goodbye.

Emotions that are not full players in a competition for human dominance get scant attention, but Wolfe maintains a similar discomfort with honesty and independently validated self-esteem. When concretized human virtue peeks its head out from the plotline, Wolfe can’t, and won’t, handle it; he instead nervously washes it away with his firehose prose of detail and status. Does virtue have any meaning other

than as a claim to new status?

I suspect Wolfe isn’t sure. He makes several feints, hinting that religion or classical studies might be normative, but backs away from them with mockery. When honesty appears, it seems at first to liberate Wolfe’s characters, but they quickly revert to a revised despicability. Charlotte herself finds relief from social entanglement by acknowledging its irrelevance and finding honesty within herself. But this reinvention lasts for a little more than a page before she resumes social competition, driven by the need to appear strong in the eyes of peers. She finishes the novel that way, declining her mother’s invitation to have an “honest talk with [her] own soul.” Every norm offered is repudiated or declined.

Because “Simmons” is about college, we might say Wolfe was just attacking the dark world of academia, but the structure of social control and competition that Wolfe has formally exposed is mirrored here as it is in his other books. Wolfe once told a British paper that he doesn’t feel alive unless he’s fighting somebody (not something, somebody). He’s made a career of it, with the mighty pen, and he’s endowed every character with that spirit. Learning what makes Wolfe feel alive, domination of other human beings, can help us to make sense of his writing. Is it possible that a 70-something year old man never learned to live peacefully in this world, without violence? Unfortunately, of course it is.



SIE HENDRATA DHARMAWAN

The Cross Products try to be more “cool” in a skit by singing Backstreet Boys’ “I Want It That Way” during their fall concert on Saturday, Dec. 4 in 54-100.



CONNIE YEE—THE TECH

The MIT Concert Band, conducted by Jeremy W. Nimmer ’02, performs at their concert this past Sunday evening in Kresge.

# Hospitalizations Inappropriate, Former Students Say

Hospitalization, from Page 1

unusual these days because of managed care that there must have been something serious going on."

Director of Mental Health Alan E. Siegel said that "it's a difficult thing to be in the hospital," and "that's why we only hospitalize students when there's the greatest urgency."

A spokesperson for McLean Hospital declined to comment.

Nationwide, demand for mental health services has been rising on college campuses. The number of hospitalizations at MIT rose from 16 in 1995 to 27 in 2000, according to MIT's Mental Health Task Force report in 2000, although Siegel said that the number has decreased since then.

The report, instigated following the suicide of Elizabeth H. Shin '02, found that "MIT currently sees 12% of its student body annually as compared to 14-16% of the student body annually in comparable schools."

## Establishing risk of serious harm

For doctors to commit a person to a mental hospital against his or her will, they must demonstrate "that the failure to hospitalize would create a likelihood of serious harm by reason of mental illness," according to Massachusetts general law.

Both Alex and Shirley, however, signed a paper agreeing to voluntarily commit themselves; the consequences for refusing can be serious.

Given that in both cases, MIT administrators or doctors had documented evidence of a risk of serious harm, they or the doctors at McLean could have pursued an involuntary commitment, which would be valid for a total of six months the first time and could also come with "Roger's Orders" that give permission for involuntary medication.

The student's status at MIT is also not guaranteed. MIT Director of Mental Health Alan E. Siegel has said that following a hospitalization, MIT has to "make a decision about whether we believe it's safe enough for [the student] to come back." In Shirley's case, MIT ultimately decided to send her home after her hospitalization and required her to reapply for admission as an undergraduate.

"Massachusetts laws are such that unless there's a real perceived danger to self or danger to others, you can't hold anybody in the hospital," Randolph said, so MIT does not make a decision to hospitalize a student lightly.

"It would be embarrassing to send a person to the hospital" only for the hospital to find them healthy and turn them away, he said.

## Stressed and suicidal

Shirley went to the doctors at MIT Medical in the late summer of 2003 because she had become extremely unhappy about a disagreement where she might have had to pay several thousand extra dollars for housing both on and off campus or possibly lose her registration as a student.

She said she was "pretty much a non-functional person" and "hysterical" at the time, but that she was looking for a "verbal punching bag," someone at MIT Medical to help her calm down.

Her current doctor, Kristine A. Girard, to whom Shirley gave permission to speak about her case, said that, according to Shirley's medical records, "she was indeed talking about a great deal of stress" and "not knowing what to do about it."

Girard said that Shirley had "talked about wanting to kill herself" to the admitting physician. She had also been hospitalized once before for risk of suicide for a shorter period of only three days.

"I don't fault them" for committing her, Shirley said, especially given MIT's possible liability for her actions otherwise. However, she said that it would have been better "if I had just been isolated for a few days... not in a mental hospital."

"What I found in the hospital, I wouldn't wish it on anyone else," she said. "I don't think anybody should have to go through that, not even for a day"

## A 'threatening,' misquoted e-mail

MIT, including Randolph, sought to commit Alex because of a perceived risk to his hallmates.



McLean Hospital, located in Belmont, MA, is one of the primary facilities to which MIT sends students it finds to be at risk of causing serious harm to themselves or others.

The Department of Mental Health Form 5A that MIT Psychiatrist Lili A. Gottfried filed petitioning to commit Alex to McLean cited as its primary evidence for risk of harm a "tense, angry recent e-mail (attached) threatening 'to get a rifle' and shoot all of you." [Alex said that the copy he received from McLean did not include the attached e-mail, and that he no longer had a copy.]

Alex said that the e-mail was "grossly misquoted and cited out of context." He said the full sentence was, "If you really think I would get a rifle and go postal, they should send you to the mental hospital."

The wording of the sentence changed several times according to several of his medical documents Alex obtained.

His Discharge Outright Summary quoted it as, "You know, maybe I will go nuts and get a rifle and just start killing all of you. If you believe that, they should send you to medical for counseling."

The Forensic Consultation done by Senior Forensic Psychologist Ronald

S. Ebert, quoted it only as, "You know, maybe I will go nuts and get a rifle and just start killing all of you."

The documents cite other evidence for Alex's hostile behavior, including other angry e-mails, possessing an air rifle, and nailing shut the hall's kitchen door. Alex said that the gun was owned by someone else on the floor and was turned over to the graduate residence tutor upon request. He also said that he had nailed the door shut to make a point after finding the kitchen in an extremely unpleasant condition, and that the nails were only halfway in and were easily removed.

According to his discharge summary, after sending the e-mail about the rifle, Alex "was urgently requested to report to the dean's office. He replied via e-mail that although he would be happy to come and speak with the dean, he would be unable to comply with this request until his exam periods were finished [Alex's hospitalization overlapped with finals week]. At this point the dean and MIT psychiatrist, Dr. Gottfried, decided that the patient should be sent on Sec-

tion XII to McLean," referring to Massachusetts general law, chapter 123 on emergency restraint of dangerous persons.

Alex said that he was working on a research project in his lab when he found about MIT's intention to hospitalize him as hallmates with police scanners "e-mailed me that they were told I was 'armed and dangerous,' and my neighbors said Campus Police were waiting on the hall."

He said that when he returned to his room to get a book around 1 a.m., the police officers there were relaxed in their manner and said "MIT Medical just wants to talk with you."

When he arrived at MIT Medical, he said that Gottfried told him after a brief physical that he was to be committed to McLean. He said the police then strapped him to a stretcher, citing "standard procedure," and took him to the hospital.

## Contact with MIT limited

Shirley said that when the doctor

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# Students Found Environment at McLean 'Stressful'

**Hospitalization**, from Page 12

she had seen decided to have her committed, an emergency medical technician or police officer came to the room and escorted her directly to the ambulance, which took her to the hospital.

She said she had no opportunity to bring any personal belongings or a second set of clothes, and had to wait until some of her friends were able to bring her some during visiting hours.

Alex, whose hospitalization overlapped with finals week, said he was dependent on his friends to bring him his books and homework and to contact his professors about postponing his exams.

Both Shirley and Alex said their contact with administrators or doctors from MIT was very limited.

Alex said that only Randolph visited the hospital regarding Alex's hospitalization, and then primarily to speak to McLean doctors.

"The thing that angered me most," Shirley said, "was that I heard from a nurse that [MIT was] going to put me on a medical leave," rather than hearing it from someone at MIT.

She said she had to wait for about seven days before receiving a visit from anyone from MIT. She said it was Siegel who visited, but after seeing him she then had to wait for him to return from vacation over the weekend to be released.

"I got [to McLean]," she said. "I thought I was going to get out in three days like last time."

Eventually, though, "I felt like I was never going to get out of there," she said. "I was so mad I had to wait an extra long time the entire weekend" for Siegel to return.

Siegel said that he would visit the student "at the point that McLean feels that they have enough information" to determine how the student is doing.

He also said that much of the level of outside contact was dependent on the desires of the student. "We let the McLean staff know to ask the student to please contact the housemaster," he said, but due to medical privacy laws, MIT cannot inform anyone without the student's consent.

**Medical care of mixed value**

The workers at McLean "were very accommodating, very quick," Shirley said. She said they were nicer to her than to some of the other

patients because she was from MIT. "They won't talk to you like a baby like they do for the others," she said.

She said, though, that she avoided many of the other patients. "I didn't want to hang out with the other patients because they scared me."

She described one middle-aged man who "had a thing for girls," and another woman who went into an angry rage at another female patient, screaming, "Don't you call me a fucking cunt, you fucking bitch."

She said there was very little to do in the hospital, which offered basic television, newspapers and board games, but not internet access.

"I did nothing," she said. "I was so bored. Finally, I don't know, on Wednesday [six days after being admitted], I tried to make friends with one of the more normal patients."

"The most difficult part" of being in McLean, Alex said, "is that there are patients in genuine need of help... People had seizures. People were placed in padded cells or restrained for medication. People cried and screamed. Such an environment is stressful. The patients saw right away I was OK."

He said the length of his stay was due to a consistent conflict with McLean doctors because he maintained that the e-mail was misquoted, and because he had filed a three-day notice for release as permitted by law. The law allows any voluntarily

admitted patient to request discharge, subject to a maximum three day delay by the hospital supervisor, but the doctors at McLean saw it as a hostile action on Alex's part.

The Forensic Consultation done by Ebert said that "he has been seen through this hospitalization to minimize his behaviors, to show poor insight, and to lack understanding of why others might be troubled by his E-mails."

The accounts of various doctors' interviews with Alex, however, rely almost entirely on the evidence provided by MIT. "Throughout the process," Alex said, "I told the psychiatrists that if they wanted a realistic picture of the hall and me, they should talk to people that know me — my friends. They refused."

The documents do not give further evidence for Alex's perceived risk of harm, and generally refer to him as a "guarded" but moderately social and cooperative patient.

A summary of his stay at McLean found that "he submitted a three-day letter requesting discharge... Nevertheless, the patient's behavior was appropriate. He was not threatening or self-destructive and he was cooperative with the evaluation process."

Alex, who was a member of ROTC at the time, said that his job after graduation required two further evaluations to clear him for work in the navy because of his hospitalization, and that both examinations

quickly found him mentally sound.

**Shirley forced to leave MIT**

Shirley said she was ultimately diagnosed as "mildly hypothyroid" and bipolar, essentially being unable to deal effectively with depressive mood swings. She said that MIT sent her home after her release from McLean and required her to reapply for admission to return.

Upon leaving McLean, she said she took a taxi back to MIT and learned that MIT had bought her a plane ticket back home, "which I figured was the least they could do since they put me through all that shit."

She also said that Assistant Dean of Counseling Services Kunya S. Desjardins "was adamant about getting me out of there as fast possible," ideally in one day. Shirley said it was her perception that the urgency was because MIT would be legally liable should she hurt herself while still on campus.

She said she was frustrated with having to leave so quickly. She said she felt like "I would really like to accommodate you," but "I have to pack... [and] get my friends to store stuff for me" at MIT.

Desjardins "had an undertone that she really wanted me out of there really soon," Shirley said.

Desjardins said she was unable to comment in detail, but wrote in an e-mail that "there are a lot of complex

issues involved in students who are hospitalized and in their taking time off... I think we try to do the best we can to think through what is in the best interest of students."

Randolph said that the "issue is never liability for MIT."

Shirley said that after returning home, she began taking antidepressants, and applied for admission in the regular fall early action program, but was rejected.

After that, she said she took the MCATs and volunteered at a local hospital. In general, she said she "just tried to be normal," but by the summer was "losing all faith" of returning. She said she applied a second time during the spring, and was finally readmitted at the end of July.

**Two say little was gained**

MIT's actions were "inappropriate," Alex said. "They were beneficial only in that I believe people can grow from any experience, no matter how unpleasant or unfair."

"You can't ever say what would happen," Shirley said, but "nobody likes to be seen as some dust to be swept under the rug."

She said she sees "no reason to keep the students in the hospital in those conditions for that long."

"When I was on leave I wanted to say something that would change MIT Medical," she said. They are "doing the best they can, but I think they can do better."

**Solution to Bonus Crossword**  
from page 13

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## Ask a MedLink

### The Zzzzzz Center

**Dear MedLink:** If I need to cut corners on sleep somehow, which is better—taking several shorter naps during the day or getting however much sleep as I can at night? —**Sleepy@MIT**

**Dear Sleepy:** I know how you feel. Between juggling classes, a UROP, activities, work, and friends, it can seem nearly impossible to find time to sleep.

Still, according to MIT Medical psychologist, Xiaolu Hsi, Ph.D., following your body's circadian clock is the best way to feel rested and energized. Ideally, this means sleeping seven to eight continuous hours each night. However, if this isn't realistic for your lifestyle, you should definitely try to schedule quick naps throughout your day, not only to give you an energy boost but to also counter your "sleep debt," which, over time, could prove deleterious to your health.

Try to keep naps to between 20 and 30 minutes in length or longer than 90 minutes. The shorter naps will give your body just enough time to rest and recuperate before dropping off into the deeper stages of sleep, and 90 minutes will give you enough time to complete an entire sleep cycle. But remember that napping for two to four hours isn't an effective way to increase your productivity or alertness.

Ultimately, however, when it comes to catching up on sleep, each of us is unique, so there is no magic formula that works for everyone. It sometimes seems that sleep is expendable here at MIT, but the truth is that sleep deprivation may have many short- and long-term health effects. In addition to interfering with your ability to concentrate and weakening your immune system, insufficient sleep also interferes with your body's regulation of insulin production, which may increase one's risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Moreover, lack of sleep also decreases production of the hormone leptin, which tells your body to stop eating when full, so people who regularly cut corners on sleep are more likely to be obese than those who get enough sleep.

If you continue to have questions about sleep, use the resources at MIT Medical to get answers. Discuss your concerns with your primary care physician or speak with a health educator in the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness (E23-205; 3-1316). Sweet dreams! —**Anu '07**



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**campus mail:** Ask A MedLink, E23-405

We can't respond individually, but we'll answer as many questions as we can in this space. And you can always talk with a MedLink in person; see [web.mit.edu/medlinks/www/](http://web.mit.edu/medlinks/www/) to find the MedLink(s) in your living group.

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## ISRAEL IS THE CANARY IN THE MINE

The war between Arabs and Jews is not the cause of the war on terror, as apologists for Muslim radicals claim; it *is* the war on terror.

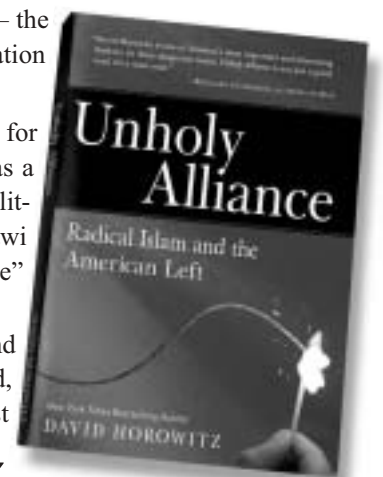
Twenty-five years ago, there were two non-Islamic democracies in the Middle East: Israel and Lebanon. This was too much for Islamic radicals, Syrian irredentists and Palestinians who joined forces to destroy Lebanon and make it a base for terror.

The goal of the post-Oslo *Intifada* is not to establish a Palestinian state alongside a Jewish state. Its goal is an Islamic *umma* extending "from the Jordan to the sea." That is why Oslo was rejected by Arafat even though Barak and Clinton offered him an independent state on virtually all of the land Palestinians claimed in the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza. That is why the very birth of Israel is referred to by all the present Palestinian leadership as the "Naqba" – the "catastrophe." To Islamic radicals at war with the West, the very creation of Israel is a catastrophe.

American apologists for Arab aggression are also apologists for Islamic aggression. In their eyes, Arab terror in the Middle East has a root cause in the policies of Israel, whom terrorists refer to as the "little Satan." For apologists of the Islamic terror of 9/11 and the Zarqawi terror in Iraq, *jihad* is not a self-generating creed but has a "root cause" in the policies of "the Great Satan," which is us.

Peace in the Middle East and peace in the war with al-Qaeda and Zarqawi will come only when the terrorists surrender or are defeated, and when Arab governments cease their incitement of hatred against Israel and the United States.

~ David Horowitz



**"THE INTERESTS OF MUSLIMS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE SOCIALISTS COINCIDE IN THE WAR AGAINST THE CRUSADERS."**

~ OSAMA BIN LADEN, FEBRUARY 14, 2003.

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# Frats Planning for Spring Rush

Rush, from Page 1

added that spring recruitment is but one of the ways fraternities are adapting to attract more members. With IFC-facilitated spring recruitment and a more centralized approach, Fabyanske hopes to recruit more members.

While a majority of the houses will participate in spring recruitment, some fraternities such as Phi Delta Theta and Phi Kappa Theta, who both received over ten pledges each in the fall, will not recruit new members.

Participating fraternities will be generally more laid back than during fall recruitment. "We feel that there is not enough buzz around campus to go full scale during the

spring," explained Kappa Sigma Rush Chair Mitun P. Ranka '05 in an e-mail.

"Our philosophy for Spring Rush is to focus on people that we've met throughout the Fall term that we've already gotten to know a little bit and try and spend time with them in a lower-key setting," wrote Delta Upsilon Rush Chair Cory L. Zue G in an e-mail. "We're not going to be hosting huge events to bring in a lot of new people like we do in Fall rush."

### Response to spring recruitment

Some non-affiliated freshmen express great interest in spring recruitment. "I was disappointed I couldn't find a fraternity I really wanted to join during rush, but I'm

hoping spring recruitment will give me an opportunity to pledge now that I have a better understanding of Greek life at MIT," said James T. Albrecht '08.

Others are more hesitant about spring recruitment. Brandon T. Yoshimoto '08 said that he doesn't think he will look into joining a fraternity because it "looks like it takes up a lot of time" and said that he still has the stereotypical image of fraternities.

In response to the stereotypical fraternity image many students have, Schiller said that "the frat stereotype that we're just a bunch of party animals really doesn't fit MIT at all. We're more academic than people imagine."

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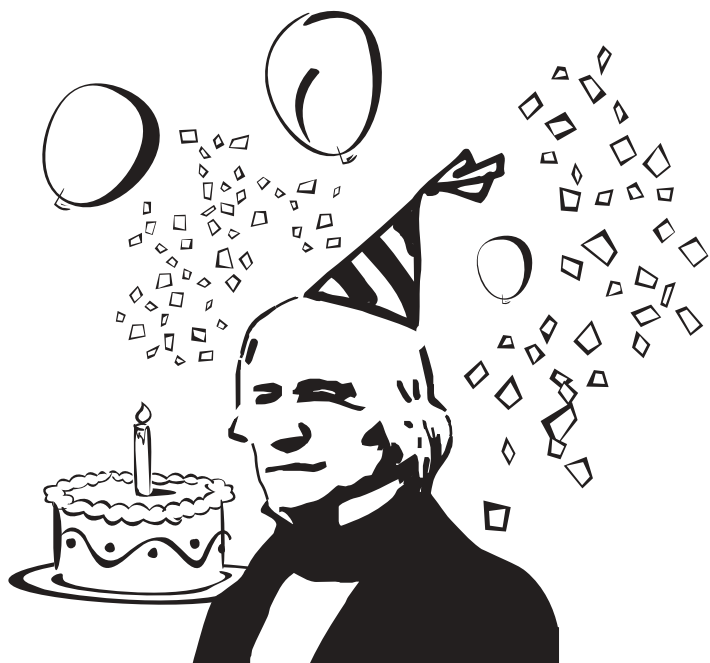
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# MIT Professors Study Innovation

By Robert Weisman  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Innovation has become an all-purpose tonic, the default prescription for every pain associated with the retrenching American economy. Whatever the problem — slower growth, global competition, fewer well-paying jobs — innovating, we are told, is the solution.

Now a pair of MIT professors has dissected the practice of innovating and found it to be generally misunderstood. In "Innovation: The Missing Dimension," published by Harvard University Press in October, Richard K. Lester and Michael J. Piore argue that much of the innovation effort in American business goes into solving problems but relatively little into identifying possibilities and opportunities in the marketplace.

"We are in danger of learning the wrong lessons about innovation," Lester and Piore warn in the book. "As a result, we risk neglecting those capabilities that are the real well-springs of creativity in the US economy — the capacity to integrate across organizational, intellectual, and cultural boundaries, the capacity to experiment, and the habits of thought that allow us to make sense of radically ambiguous situations and move forward in the face of uncertainty."

While innovation is typically seen as a single process, Lester and

Piore break it into two parts: problem solving and interpretation. Companies focus constantly on the former, which tends to be a rational step-by-step process. If they talk about the latter at all, it is under the guise of "listening to the customer," a less well-defined discipline.

Much of the book is devoted to case studies of product development in fields ranging from cell-phones to medical equipment to bluejeans. Successful innovators "created spaces where they could have open-ended conversations" about technology and markets, Lester, who directs MIT's Industrial Performance Center, said in an interview.

One of their chief strengths was the ability to interpret a situation. "We compare the interpretive manager to the host of a cocktail party," Lester said. "She decides who to invite, she brings people together, she begins conversations, and she tries to keep the conversations going. That's radically different from what the problem-solving manager does, which is often to get a product out the door."

A more sophisticated understanding of these conversations, and their role in innovation, could be a boon for Boston, a world center of technology, research, and expertise of all stripes. "When companies come here, they're locating in an

environment that is intellectually rich and full of people who are asking questions," noted Mitchell Adams, executive director of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.

The collaborative runs the Massachusetts Nanotechnology Institute, devoted to bringing together people from science, business, finance, and academia who are interested in the field. "There is no club or bar you can go to to talk about nanotechnology," Adams said.

In the past, much of the conversation about technologies and their possibilities took place at corporate research centers, such as Bell Labs and Xerox PARC, that pioneered new technology and sparked the innovation that drove the great economic expansion of the 1990s. But corporations increasingly have been reining in their basic research and concentrating on applied research. As a result, more of the responsibility for innovation has shifted to research-oriented universities like Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Smart companies seek to plug into campus technology dialogues by taking part in collaborative research projects, said Lester, who agrees the Boston area should be able to capitalize on the trend.

# Groups Entertain at Hockfield Reception

Welcome, from Page 1

greeted with balloons, free food and drinks, live music, and Tim the Beaver as they meandered around the first three floors of the building.

Hockfield arrived around 3:40 p.m., and a reception line quickly formed outside of the second floor lounge. Students and faculty waited for a chance to greet and speak with the new president, while the Mark Greel Band played jazz music on the first floor.

"It feels fantastic to finally be here," said Hockfield, though she also said that time had passed very quickly since Aug. 26, the date of her appointment.

## Hockfield meets with departments

During her first day as president, she met with a variety of people, and talked to some reporters, Hockfield said. She also had lunch with the Institute's department heads, where they discussed her observations from the past three months and the enormous confidence she has in MIT. "They were a great group," Hockfield said. When asked about any immediate goals or plans she has, Hockfield said she would like to increase interdepartmental communications.

"There's so much excitement" and a very warm welcome, Hockfield said of the afternoon's festivities in the Student Center. After talking with students, Hockfield said what she found most exciting was the enthusiasm that many showed for MIT's mission, and she was very impressed by the extraordinary commitment that students show. She said that she will continue her process of learning about MIT, and "wants MIT to be stronger than it's ever been."

Hockfield has also met with the Student Advisory Board, who will present her with students' positions and opinions about important issues on campus in several lunches this winter and spring.

## Music groups welcome Hockfield

Music from the jazz band was interspersed with performances by several of MIT's a capella groups. The Muses, an all-female group, were the first to sing, and opened with the short but well-known Beaver Cheer. Afterwards, the group had a chance to talk to Hockfield.

"We said we were excited that she was MIT's first female president," said the Muses member Frances W. Weld '05. "She said it's an honor to be the first." Hockfield also said that it was interesting how it wouldn't be that much of a change at other universities, but for some reason it's different at MIT, Weld said.

MIT's Resonance also had a chance to speak with Hockfield after their performance. "She was very interested about all the a capella groups at MIT," said Resonance President Stephen S. Lee '05. She mentioned that Yale has sixteen a capella groups, and said she was looking forward to hearing the different types of music from MIT's groups. When Hockfield learned that graduate students were also welcome in the group, she jokingly replied, "What an innovation to have grad students involved in campus activities!" said Lee.

The all-male group the Logarithms sang last, performing songs such as Modest Mouse's "Float On." Later, they surprised Hockfield by surrounding and serenading her with an impromptu performance of "Babyface." "[Hockfield] said she had heard a lot of a capella singing, and hoped to hear more, but from a farther distance away," said Logarithms President Douglas H. Fraser '06.

Hockfield is replacing Charles M. Vest, who held the position for the past fourteen years. When Vest assumed the presidency in 1990, hackers welcomed him to MIT by hiding the door to his office behind a fake bulletin board.

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Successful bids appear on your Registration Form on January 31 and will be posted on the bidding website as of January 24 – write down your password to check results!

### Solution to Terminal Conditions

from page 6

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# Hockfield on Politics, Budgets, and Adjusting to MIT

Interview, from Page 1

listening to, and learning from people who know MIT from the inside. I will continue these meetings in the coming months and years.

**TT:** The National Labor Relations Board in July reversed its 2000 decision and reclassified graduate assistants as students, not employees, and therefore unable to organize into unions. During your time as graduate student dean at Yale, what was your involvement in Yale's opposition to the formation of a graduate student union, why did Yale actively deny students the right to organize, and what are your opinions on graduate student unions?

**Hockfield:** The critical role of faculty-student interactions and the individually tailored nature of the very best graduate programs make educational relationships and practices different in important ways from relationships governed by labor law. For that reason, Yale University has held the position that the unionization of graduate student teaching and research assistants is not in the best interests of graduate students themselves, of undergraduates, or of faculty.

As Dean, I worked with the faculty, students and staff of the Yale Graduate School to build a stronger community for graduate education and a better environment for teaching and scholarship. Some of the improvements included new academic policies to encourage timely completion of degree requirements, increases in the financial support for graduate study and the institution of formal reviews of graduate programs. We also strengthened career advising, teacher preparation and other student life activities in ways that brought together graduate students from different academic disciplines.

**TT:** How important do you think it is for a President of MIT to hold a degree from MIT?

**Hockfield:** I am spending a great deal of time learning about MIT, and I can certainly appreciate that someone who already knew MIT would not have as much to learn — like the building and course numbers! There was a time in this country when our major educational institutions looked only to their own graduates for faculty and for academic leaders, but now all leading colleges and universities seek out and try to bring the most able individuals to their campuses. Coming from the outside, I bring a respect for MIT's great accomplishments and for its extraordinary culture of excellence. As I learn about MIT activities, traditions and practices, my questions provide a chance for MIT's students, faculty, staff and alumni to articulate what they find valuable about this Institution and, in the process of articulation, stimulate a renewed appreciation for the Institute's values and ambitions.

Over the years, MIT has enjoyed great leadership by people who graduated from the Institute and by those who did not. No matter the background of MIT's president, the central task must be to preserve the unique character and culture of MIT while guiding the Institute's responses to the changing academic and research environments, so that MIT can retain and expand its leadership in this nation and around the world.

**TT:** Do you believe the president of a highly-regarded university such as Yale or MIT should speak publicly about current political or social issues? Does advocating for science include advocating for the solutions or positions supported by science?

**Hockfield:** In general, I believe that the greatest value institutions like MIT can bring to highly charged debates is to provide environments where opposing ideas and opinions can be intelligently and thoughtfully discussed. Therefore, generally I do not favor the articulation of "institutional positions."

All great universities have several important missions. Most important among these are the creation of knowledge and its dissemination to those in our own community and to

the world at large. There is a long tradition of MIT people serving as advisors on matters of critical importance to government and society, both here and in other parts of the world. MIT, as an institution, has earned the reputation of being a source of unbiased and objective knowledge. As individuals, we will maintain and enhance this reputation by using fact-based evidence and rational argument in our public statements and engagements, just as we do in our discussions and debates about our research and education on campus.

**TT:** When situations arise where the U.S. government makes decisions contrary to or ignorant of scientific knowledge, as has happened in the past few years, should a university take a strong stand on the decision? Would you be willing to risk government funding for MIT or Yale to contradict what you saw as a scientifically incorrect or unfounded decision?

**Hockfield:** It is my strong belief, as president of MIT and as a U.S. citizen, that when we consider public policies it is important that we obtain the best evidence available and debate the issues in the light of reason. MIT has a well-deserved reputation for establishing internal policies that align with the highest principles of advanced research and education. And presidents of MIT have played a major role in advancing national policies for science, technology and education that, similarly, align with those principles. I will do all I can to continue that MIT tradition, keeping a strong voice for the good that comes from solid investments in, and sound policies for, higher education and research.

**TT:** Universities are still adjusting to the conflicting natures of undergraduates as both adults and underage drinkers. How strong a role do you think a university should take in policing its students' personal lives? That is, is the current litigious trend towards in loco parentis administration appropriate?

**Hockfield:** College is a time for young people to stretch their minds, to seek out new experiences, make new friends, and take steps toward greater independence and self-reliance. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the university to provide a safe environment within which such growth can occur. It is a delicate balance, best achieved by students, faculty, and administration working together, to create caring communities that encourage and support exploration and learning.

**TT:** *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that colleges nationwide had seen an 18 percent drop in international graduate student admissions this year. What can be done by universities to ensure that increased security measures do not lead to a further drop in international admissions?

**Hockfield:** National security is a very real and very serious issue for all of us today. American universities have served as the gateway for some of the best minds in the world to join our nation's commitment to improving the lives of all people. Balancing these risks and opportunities requires insightful development of national policies that take into account the important role and distinctively open cultures of universities. MIT has traditionally had a powerful voice in the articulation of national policies, a tradition I will continue.

The recent drop in the admission of international students to American graduate programs, including MIT's, endangers the vitality of our educational institutions and the strength of the nation, particularly in science and engineering. MIT, together with our peer institutions, has encouraged the U.S. government to adopt policies and practices that, while responding to national security concerns, would not deter the very best international students from pursuing their education in this country. The good news is that the government has responded in posi-

tive and productive ways to the concerns voiced by American universities about visa processes. This summer, the State Department gave students and scholars priority in scheduling visa interviews and substantially decreased the waiting times for visa screening processes. I plan to work on further improving visa processes for international students and scholars and on policies that will continue this country's great history of welcoming the world's best minds to our universities.

**TT:** Is relying on private donations a safe way to support MIT's

operating expenses? Currently, MIT relies on private donations for several hundred million dollars of its budget. Is that sustainable over the long term?

**Hockfield:** MIT, like all of the major research universities in this country, relies on private donations as one source of revenue to sustain and enhance our academic activities. Over the last several years MIT has had a remarkable fund-raising performance, as evidenced by the achievement of the current campaign's \$2 billion goal. One of the great strengths of American research universities is that our

alumni recognize — and contribute in significant measure to — the distinctive excellence of American institutions. MIT's alumni have been enormously supportive of the Institute, giving at an extraordinary, unprecedented level in our recent campaign.

Private donations represent only one of the major revenue sources for MIT, with income from grants and contracts, endowment investments and tuition also figuring prominently. Sound financial management requires ongoing assessment of the opportunities and risks of each of the major revenue sources.

## MACROEPIDEMIOLOGY

**BE.102 TR3-4:30 56-169 (U) SPRING 2005 (3-0-9)**

**Created for new to advanced students interested in a personal integrated perspective of the physiologic, genetic and environmental causes of common mortal diseases. Each student will learn by organizing and analyzing multiple levels of data for a self-chosen disease such as a cancer, vascular disease or diabetes. Beginning with the quantitative complete history of common disease mortality in the U.S. (See <http://epidemiology.mit.edu>) students will create qualitative, then quantitative, models based on human populations genetics, human somatic genetics, cellular and molecular biology and the history of changes in the human environment. Includes technological approaches to discover the genes, if any, carrying risk for common diseases.**

**Bill Thilly, '67, Professor of Genetic Toxicology and Biological Engineering  
<[thilly@mit.edu](mailto:thilly@mit.edu)>**



*A Countdown to the End of Classes*

Days to go

3

Tues 12/7

Hot Chocolate & Tea  
+ Candy Canes

2

Weds 12/8

Lollicup Pearl Milk Tea  
+ Candy

1

Thurs 12/9

Starbucks Frappacinos  
+ Brownies & Cookies

**Student Center from 11-4pm**

The CCRR Grants Program funds events and activities that bring together racial, ethnic, and cultural groups to provide forums for addressing problems and concerns associated with race relations, to celebrate different cultures, and to increase awareness of the diversity that is MIT.

web.mit.edu/ccrr

committee on campus race relations

Next Grant Application Deadline  
1 January 2005

# UA Bill Supports Simmons Hall

Election, from Page 1

resulted in disciplinary action against several residents.

The first, the "Bill to Facilitate Improvement of Student Disciplinary Procedures," allows the UA President to convene a committee with possible membership from the UA and the Dormitory, Interfraternity, Panhellenic, and Living Group Councils to investigate the handling of the incident at Simmons. The committee would also work with administration to develop policies to better deal with similar incidents in the future.

The second item, unanimously passed, was a "Resolution in Support of Simmons Hall," which "encourages the Cambridge License Commission (CLC) to consider the quick and cooperative response of the Simmons Community to the Oct. 9th, 2004 incident and respond leniently in their findings."

Andrew T. Lukmann '07, UA Senator from Simmons, Chair of the Simmons House Committee and sponsor of the resolution, said that "people are getting very worried" about the possible sanctions that could be imposed by the CLC at the upcoming Jan. 4 hearing, and the resolution aims to show the CLC "support from the entire undergraduate body" relating to the Simmons Hall incident. "I think it's really important for the entire MIT community to come out and support Simmons," he said.

Lukmann said that since the Oct. 9 party, the Simmons House Government has discussed plans to add cameras, which could be monitored by the desk worker, along the back of the dormitory where doors had been propped open during the party. In addition, he said, there are plans to add alarms to many of the exits in the building, so that doors left open for extended periods of time would be noticed.

The resolution also cites actions taken by the Simmons Hall Judicial Committee such as mandatory Town Hall discussion sessions to encourage party registration and call for "greater personal responsibility of community members."

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### Solution to KRT Crossword

from page 7

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



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Sports at MIT...  
 What Does It Look Like To You?



Is it Determined?  
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Give your opinion at a special preview of the proposed designs for the new

# MIT SPORTS LOGO

15 minutes of your time is all it takes.

**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.



*Space is limited. Reserve your spot by calling 3-4498 and asking for a DAPER Brand Focus Group Appointment*



We are **The Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago**, whose mission is to achieve international impact through world class research and education in fundamental Computer Science and Information Technology.

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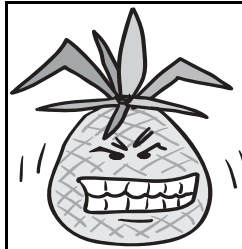
We are also accepting applications for **summer interns** at the undergraduate and graduate levels for summer 2005. Email your resume for summer intern positions to: [jobs@tti-c.org](mailto:jobs@tti-c.org).

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# An Advent Service of Lessons & Carols

**Wednesday, December 8**  
**5:15 in the MIT Chapel**

Informal Caroling to follow in Lobby 7 followed by a sumptuous dinner in W11

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<http://web.mit.edu/lem/www/>

## SPORTS

## Swimming, Diving Teams Set Records in Double Win

By Victoria K. Anderson  
TEAM ALUMNA

The MIT Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams came home from Maine on Saturday with a pair of victories over Colby College. The men were victorious 195-92 while the women snuck past Colby in a close 157-139.

The women's victory was led by a 1-2-3 sweep of the one and three meter diving events. Doria M. Holbrook '08 led the effort on both boards, including a pool record and her second NCAA Division III Qualifying Score of the season on the one meter. Jaryn E. Finch '05 was second on the three meter and third on the one meter, while Ashley R. Rothenberg '05 was second on the one meter and third on the three meter.

## Not So Much Perfection, Please

By Yong-yi Zhu  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Has this been a successful college football season?

It is true that we saw five programs finish the season undefeated.

Not since 1979, when Alabama, Brigham Young University, Florida State, McNeese State and Ohio State were all undefeated, have five division I-A schools done that well in the same year. Congrats to Auburn, Boise State, Oklahoma, University of Southern California and Utah for being so perfect.

However, all that perfection gets people wondering who should play for the national title. Are there two undefeated teams this season that clearly stand above the other three? Not really. There are three teams that stand out, but the BCS does not account for three teams.

In the past, although there have been BCS nightmares, the end results were not so uncomfortable. When Florida State, and not Miami, played Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl in 2000, a split national championship would have happened had Oklahoma not come to the rescue and beaten Florida. But Oklahoma prevailed.

When Nebraska, and not Colorado, played Miami for the Rose Bowl in 2001, again a split championship was imminent. But the Canes whooped up on the Huskers and again, chaos was spared.

Holbrook's record-breaking performance was echoed by fellow teammate Katherine C. Thornton '07, who broke the pool record in the 1,000 yard free en route to her victory over the field.

The Beavers were also helped out immensely by the double individual victories from Julianna K. Edwards '08 and Jennifer A. La'O '05. Edwards won the 100 back and the 100 fly, taking the latter over Colby's Laura Miller, who took second in the event at the NCAA Division III Championships last season. While Edwards cleaned up in the sprint area, La'O joined with Thornton to demonstrate the team's depth in the longer distance events by taking the 200 back and 400 IM.

The men were also in record-setting mode on Saturday, with Craig Edwards '07 leading the way

with two pool records in the 100 and 200 back. The 100 back also gave Edwards his first NCAA Provisional Qualifying Time of the season, with Matthieu Fuzellier '05 right behind to provisionally qualify as well.

Joseph P. Carlucci '05 set a pool record in an exhibition 50 breast, while the 400 free relay team of Josiah B. Rosmarin '06, Edwards, Grady A. Snyder '06, and Jonathan S. Varsanik '05 also set a new pool record by nearly five seconds.

During the record-setting meet, the men boasted three double event winners in addition to Edwards, who swept the backstroke events. Mark Y. Liao '06 took first in the 500 and 1000 free while Snyder won the 100 and 200 free. Finally, Nicholas O. Sidelnik '05 demonstrated versatility by winning the 400 IM and the 200 fly.

And last year, even though Louisiana State University and USC did split the title, many felt that there were three good teams and both of those teams were very deserving of the crown.

However, this year, we will not have two champions. Whoever wins the Orange Bowl will be the National Champion and Auburn, assuming they win the Sugar Bowl, will be champion number two. And when that happens, Auburn, the SEC and their fans will not be pleased at all.

So maybe all those perfect teams weren't such a blessing overall.

It is true that this season we saw great football games all over the country. From Northwestern beating Ohio State for the first time in 33 years, to North Carolina beating Miami on a last second field goal, to Sylvester Croom's big win against Florida.

But this season was not all roses. There were several major sour notes, the biggest of which was the firing of Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham. The Notre Dame season was one filled with close losses. They lost their opener to BYU by three points. They then lost to Boston College by a measly point. And before the destruction to USC, the Irish fought hard against Pittsburgh only to lose again by three points.

If those games had turned the other way, Notre Dame would be looking at a 9-2 season, instead of a 6-5 one. However, the directors at

Notre Dame felt that losses are losses and they didn't want to deal with losing anymore.

Unfortunately, they didn't realize that there is no real quick fix at the NCAA level. True, Ty Willingham had not brought in enough speed at the skill positions as schools like Miami have done time after time. True, Willingham has not repeated the success that he had in his first season. True, Willingham has lost to USC by 31 points in each of his three years — at least he's consistent.

But Willingham hasn't even had one of his recruiting classes go through the program yet. He's been at Notre Dame for three years, and there is no easy way to turn a program around in that short period of time, especially if Willingham is trying to install his own system at the university.

Notre Dame seems to no longer be about integrity and honor, but has wholeheartedly adopted the philosophy of winning. Who could imagine that Our Lady would do something so tasteless and completely outrageous as this? But in the end, it was all those close games that led to the eventual demise of Willingham.

I guess upon further review (which is something college football should seriously consider adopting, after watching that horrendous call against UCLA Saturday night) this football season was at once very good and very bad, about all you can expect from college football these days.

## Statistics for Swimming, Diving Meets

| Saturday, December 4: MIT Women 157 – Colby Women 139 |       |                                                                                                        |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Event                                                 | Place | MIT                                                                                                    | Result                                        |
| 200 Medley Relay                                      | 2     | MIT-A (Julianna K. Edwards '08, Katherine C. Thornton '07, Annika S. Larsson '08, Sasha B. Brophy '08) | 1:54.80                                       |
|                                                       | 3     | MIT-B (Jennifer A. La'O '05, Melissa E. Dere '06, Jessica A. Harpole '07, Jolinta Y. Lin '07)          | 2:03.03                                       |
| 1000 Free                                             | 1     | Thornton                                                                                               | 10:50.98<br>(Pool Record)                     |
| 200 Free                                              | 3     | Brophy                                                                                                 | 2:00.98                                       |
| 100 Back                                              | 1     | Edwards                                                                                                | 1:01.59                                       |
| 100 Breast                                            | 3     | Dere                                                                                                   | 1:13.75                                       |
| 200 Fly                                               | 1     | Larsson                                                                                                | 2:19.19                                       |
|                                                       | 3     | Katrina M. Cornell '06                                                                                 | 2:35.66                                       |
| 50 Free                                               | 3     | Brophy                                                                                                 | 26.61                                         |
| 1 Meter Diving                                        | 1     | Doria M. Holbrook '08                                                                                  | 251.78<br>(Pool Record, NCAA Provisional Cut) |
|                                                       | 2     | Ashley R. Rothenberg '05                                                                               | 142.89                                        |
|                                                       | 3     | Jaryn E. Finch '05                                                                                     | 125.85                                        |
| 100 Free                                              | 2     | Edwards                                                                                                | 54.80                                         |
| 200 Back                                              | 1     | La'O                                                                                                   | 2:16.27                                       |
| 200 Breast                                            | 3     | Thornton                                                                                               | 2:32.85                                       |
| 500 Free                                              | 2     | Brophy                                                                                                 | 5:28.21                                       |
| 100 Fly                                               | 1     | Edwards                                                                                                | 59.81                                         |
|                                                       | 3     | Larsson                                                                                                | 1:02.66                                       |
| 3 Meter Diving                                        | 1     | Holbrook                                                                                               | 196.76                                        |
|                                                       | 2     | Finch                                                                                                  | 142.21                                        |
|                                                       | 3     | Rothenberg                                                                                             | 133.81                                        |
| 400 IM                                                | 1     | La'O                                                                                                   | 4:48.08                                       |
| 400 Free Relay                                        | 3     | Thornton                                                                                               | 4:49.96                                       |
|                                                       | 1     | MIT-A (Jennifer J. DeBoer '05, Larsson, Stephanie A. Sidelko '07, Jacquelyn M. Nowicke '08)            | 3:48                                          |
| Saturday, December 4: MIT Men 195 – Colby Men 92      |       |                                                                                                        |                                               |
| Event                                                 | Place | MIT                                                                                                    | Result                                        |
| 200 Medley Relay                                      | 1     | MIT-A (Craig Edwards '07, Kalvin D. Kao '08, Jonathan S. Varsanik '05, Matthieu Fuzellier '05)         | 1:38.68                                       |
|                                                       | 3     | MIT-B (Nicholas O. Sidelnik '05, Jeffrey B. Gilbert '05, Jeffrey J. Pan '07, Grady A. Snyder '06)      | 1:44                                          |
| 1000 Free                                             | 1     | Mark Y. Liao '06                                                                                       | 10:03.72                                      |
|                                                       | 3     | Sidelnik                                                                                               | 10:37.73                                      |
| 200 Free                                              | 1     | Snyder                                                                                                 | 1:48.15                                       |
|                                                       | 2     | Kao                                                                                                    | 1:48.64                                       |
| 100 Back                                              | 1     | Edwards                                                                                                | 52.72<br>(Pool Record, NCAA Provisional Cut)  |
|                                                       | 2     | Fuzellier                                                                                              | 52.88<br>(NCAA Provisional Cut)               |
| 100 Breast                                            | 1     | Joseph P. Carlucci '05                                                                                 | 1:00.55                                       |
| 200 Fly                                               | 3     | Gilbert                                                                                                | 1:04.21                                       |
|                                                       | 1     | Sidelnik                                                                                               | 2:03.15                                       |
| 50 Free                                               | 3     | Neil J. Kelly '06                                                                                      | 2:10.46                                       |
|                                                       | 2     | Varsanik                                                                                               | 22.33                                         |
| 1 Meter Diving                                        | 3     | Carlucci                                                                                               | 23.19                                         |
|                                                       | 2     | Mikko A. Solomon '07                                                                                   | 134.63                                        |
| 100 Free                                              | 1     | Snyder                                                                                                 | 48.31                                         |
|                                                       | 3     | Fuzellier                                                                                              | 49.04                                         |
| 200 Back                                              | 1     | Edwards                                                                                                | 1:58.14<br>(Pool Record)                      |
| 200 Breast                                            | 1     | Kao                                                                                                    | 2:16.00                                       |
|                                                       | 2     | Carlucci                                                                                               | 2:18.86                                       |
| 500 Free                                              | 1     | Liao                                                                                                   | 4:53.66                                       |
|                                                       | 3     | Rosmarin                                                                                               | 5:03.94                                       |
| 100 Fly                                               | 1     | Varsanik                                                                                               | 52.82                                         |
|                                                       | 2     | Fuzellier                                                                                              | 53.29                                         |
|                                                       | 3     | Pan                                                                                                    | 57.43                                         |
| 3 Meter Diving                                        | 2     | Solomon                                                                                                | 149.70                                        |
| 400 IM                                                | 1     | Sidelnik                                                                                               | 4:23.84                                       |
|                                                       | 2     | Kao                                                                                                    | 4:26.53                                       |
|                                                       | 3     | David D. Lohrey '05                                                                                    | 4:32.38                                       |
| 400 Free Relay                                        | 1     | MIT-A (Rosmarin, Edwards, Snyder, Varsanik)                                                            | 3:13.83<br>(Pool Record)                      |
|                                                       | 3     | MIT-B (Liao, Nemanja L. Spasojevic '04, Boris E. Revzin '08, Michael D. Dimitriou '06)                 | 3:32.31                                       |



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Taylor W. Barton '06 competes in the State Junior Olympic Rifle Championship Match for students ages 12-19 on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004. Having shot for a chance to train at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs sponsored by USA Shooting, Barton finished third place in both the air rifle and smallbore divisions.

Write about your favorite sports!

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The last challenge  
of a socially  
conscious society?

Depression strikes millions— indiscriminately. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there's the lack of awareness of depression— as an illness and as the threat that it is to each and every one of us. Second, there's the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the "mental" thing. It's time to collectively face depression. To know it's an illness, not a weakness. And it's a challenge that's long overdue. It's taken too many of us already.

UNTREATED  
DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

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