

## FSILGs Recruit New Members for Spring

By Jeffrey Chang  
STAFF REPORTER

Every year at MIT, rush is a time when many students' stereotypes about Greek life or other living options are tossed aside as they explore the 38 variations on fraternity, sorority, and independent living group life at MIT.

This year is sure to be no different, with an increase in the number of girls registered for sorority recruitment, and a fraternity rush during the Independent Activities Period and spring conducted with the help of the Interfraternity Council for the first time.

As students head into spring term, MIT Panhellenic, which saw little change in recruitment results after the institution of the freshmen on campus policy, is looking to attract even more women. Many fra-

ternities and ILGs, on the other hand, often use spring rush as a time to seek additional members if their houses are not full.

### Sorority recruitment begins

An Information Night on Wednesday evening will mark the launch of the recruitment period for MIT's five sororities.

Girls will meet with their recruitment counselors, female students who have been temporarily disaffiliated from their sororities since last semester and are trained to guide students in an unbiased way through the decision-making process.

The twenty or so counselors have been staying at the Hyatt Hotel since Monday and will continue to live there until the end of recruit-

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DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

Pedestrians walk past piles of snow surrounding Building 32 Sunday night following the blizzard. Cambridge received thirty inches of snow during the storm.

## OSHA to Investigate BU Infections

By Alice Dembner  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has launched an investigation into the infection

last year of three lab workers who were handling the tularemia bacterium at Boston University Medical Center, an OSHA spokesman said Tuesday.

OSHA officials began the investigation Friday with an inspection of the lab in the Evans Biomedical Research Center on Albany Street, where the exposure occurred, said John Chavez, spokesman for the OSHA regional office in Boston. The inspectors will determine whether BU violated any of the federal agency's rules on the health and safety of workers. Chavez said the investigation could take up to six months.

Ellen Berlin, spokeswoman for BU's medical center, said campus officials are "actively cooperating with OSHA" and have given inspectors a detailed account of what happened.

Two lab workers fell ill last May, according to BU officials, and one was hospitalized. But it wasn't until another employee got sick and was hospitalized in September, BU officials said, that they began an investigation that determined that the cause was tularemia. BU officials said the workers thought they were working with a safe strain of tularemia, but that it had become contaminated with a potentially deadly strain. Dr. Thomas Moore, acting provost of BU's medical campus, said last week that the workers also failed to take proper precautions in the lab, working with the tularemia samples in the open, instead of in an enclosed box.

BU's own investigation of the problems is continuing, as are separate probes by the Boston Public Health Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Several workers remain on paid leave.

If OSHA finds that BU willfully violated worker-protection standards in a way that could have caused serious injury or death, BU could face a maximum fine of \$70,000 per violation, Chavez said.

He said OSHA began the inves-

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## Howard Brown

Howard Brown, a former longtime MIT custodian who retired in 1999, died Christmas night, according to an e-mail from Brian Bay, Brown's former roommate of fifteen years. While many current MIT students have never met or known him, many alumni, including some from *The Tech*, remember him as a kind-hearted ever-present friend.



Jonathan Richmond '81 a former *Tech* editor, wrote in a 1999 letter about Brown's retirement, "few professors retire to such displays of affection and, indeed, love as Howard Brown... he has been a friend and comforting presence to generations of MIT students."

Gregory Kuhnen '00, former *Tech* Executive Editor, remembered returning to the Tech office to retrieve a bag and finding Brown crying because he had seen news pages in the office about a student suicide. "The student hadn't been anyone Howard had known, and in his years at MIT there had certainly been numerous suicides, but he was still at a loss to understand how anyone young, healthy, and talented could give up their gifts," Kuhnen wrote.

Reuven Lerner '92 said at the time of Brown's retirement, "Howard influenced me more than some of my professors, which in and of itself teaches us quite an important lesson. He was always kind,

Brown, Page 14

## James E. Roberts

James E. Roberts, known as "Big Jimmy," passed away at his home on Jan. 21. Roberts, who was a night watchman at East Campus and Senior house, was very popular with the students because of his engaging, talkative personality and obvious eagerness to learn about and befriend them.

He "always showed a real concern for you as an individual, and he would remember your name," said Jesse Austin-Breneman '05, East Campus house president.

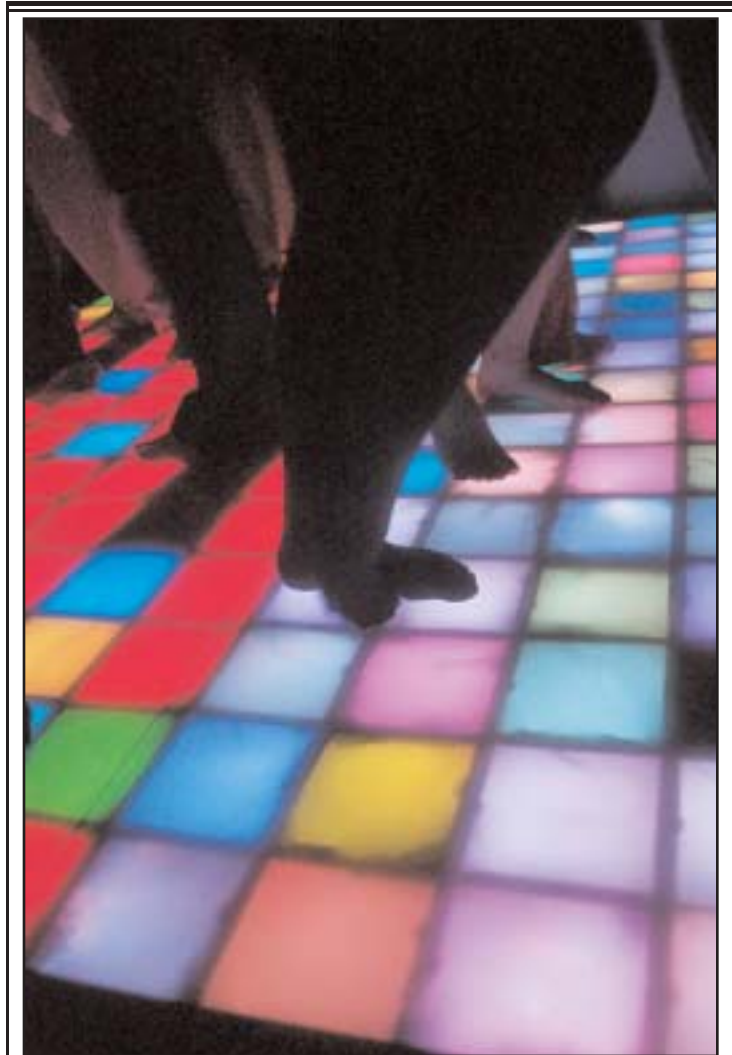
Eric W. Lieberman '05 remembered "he'd just walk down the hall... You'd just see him stop at each door... He was able to say something to everybody."

"From 1996 thru 2001 Big Jimmy and I had the pleasure of sharing the Night Watch duties... He was a trusted friend and I will meet him deeply," wrote East Campus house manager Joseph F. Graham Jr in an e-mail to the dormitory residents.

Roberts received the James N. Murphy Award "for MIT employees whose contributions to the Institute community have endeared them to students," in 1991, according to *Tech Talk*.

Visiting hours will be held for Roberts today from 2 to 6 p.m. at the George L. Doherty funeral home, followed by a funeral service. *The Boston Globe* obituary asks for donations to be made to the MIT Scholarship Fund in his memory in lieu of flowers.

A Web site set up in memory of Roberts is available at <http://web.media.mit.edu/~lifton/BigJimmy/>.



SCOTT JOHNSTON—THE TECH

Students test out the new disco dance floor on First East at East Campus last Sunday night. The floor, designed by Grant A. Elliott '06 and Scott D. Torborg '07, was built in just a week for the annual EC Bad Ideas Competition, with additional funding from the MIT Council for the Arts. Over 1,500 hand-soldered LEDs illuminate the cells of the floor in any of 4,096 colors in time with the music.



"Sideways" a worthwhile diversion of a road trip

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### NEWS

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# WORLD & NATION

## Iraqis Abroad Seem Reluctant to Vote, Too

By Hassan M. Fattah  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

After a two-day extension, registration of Iraqi voters living abroad drew to a close Tuesday but fell well below expectations, with about a quarter of the number predicted by organizers signing up for Sunday's election.

By Tuesday morning, some 255,000 Iraqis living overseas had registered in 14 nations out of the roughly one million voters that organizers expected would sign up. The low turnout added to the troubles of a process that was burdened throughout by security concerns, confusion and some controversy.

"We've been successful in that we haven't had procedural problems," said Peter Erben, director of the overseas vote for the International Organization for Migration, which is running the elections overseas on behalf of Iraq's Independent Electoral Commission.

## Mass. Hospital Group Eyes Patient Safety

By Liz Kowalczyk  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

BOSTON, MA

The Massachusetts Hospital Association is expected to unveil an ambitious program Wednesday to improve patient safety in the state's 105 hospitals, including public posting of nurses' workloads at individual hospitals and the number of hours each day they spend directly caring for patients.

The association's program is voluntary. But hospitals that sign a pledge to participate in the "Patients First" initiative agree to about 20 goals, such as regularly discussing patient safety at hospital trustee meetings and submitting their nurse staffing plans to state public health officials yearly. The association, which is a trade group run by hospitals, plans to report on a new Web site which hospitals have enrolled and their progress toward the goals, hoping that the public pressure and scrutiny will help motivate hospitals to participate.

Thirty-one hospitals have enrolled in the program so far, which the association planned to discuss Wednesday during a news conference at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, joined by the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives.

## Rights Group Condemns Meatpackers On Job Safety

By Steven Greenhouse  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For the first time, Human Rights Watch has issued a report that harshly criticizes a single industry in the United States, concluding that working conditions among the nation's meatpackers and slaughterhouses are so bad that they violate basic human rights.

The report, released Tuesday, frequently echoes Upton Sinclair's classic on the industry, "The Jungle." It finds that jobs in many beef, pork and poultry plants are sufficiently dangerous to breach international agreements promising a safe workplace.

The report notes that meatpacking's injury rate is more than three times that of American private industry overall: 20 injuries per 100 meatpacking workers in 2001, as against 5.7 in all industry.

It describes plants where exhausted employees slice into carcasses at a frenzied pace hour after hour, often suffering injuries from a slip of the knife or from repeating a single motion more than 10,000 times a day. It tells of workers' being asphyxiated by fumes from decaying matter, of legs cut off, of hands crushed.

"Meatpacking is the most dangerous factory job in America," said the report's author, Lance Compa, who teaches industrial and labor relations at Cornell University and is a former union organizer and negotiator.

# White House Announces That Budget Deficit Will Increase

By Edmund L. Andrews  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The White House announced on Tuesday that the federal budget deficit was expected to rise this year to \$427 billion — a figure that includes a new request from President Bush to help pay for the war in Iraq.

The announcement marks the fourth year in a row in which the budget deficit has grown; as recently as last July the administration had predicted that the deficit would fall this year to \$331 billion.

The deficit figure announced by the White House, which includes part of an extra \$80 billion that Bush requested for Iraq, was higher than the \$368 estimate announced earlier in the day by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, but that figure did not include supplemental costs for the war. The deficit estimates are roughly consistent with the inclusion of those costs, which include bombs, bullets, armor for vehicles used in Iraq and the replacement of tanks and Humvees blown up by insurgent forces.

Neither estimate includes the cost of privatizing part of the Social Security program, the leading ele-

ment of Bush's domestic agenda. Estimates of the cost of creating those accounts range from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion over the next two decades.

The Congressional Budget Office said if Bush wins congressional approval to make his tax cuts permanent — another top priority — the deficit would grow by \$2 trillion over the next 10 years. If war costs in Iraq and Afghanistan taper off gradually, the agency estimated that price tag over the next 10 years could total nearly \$600 billion.

In a briefing for reporters Tuesday, senior administration officials insisted they are still on track to fulfill Bush's campaign promise to reduce the federal budget deficit by half by 2009. But Bush is already well behind in reaching his goal.

The deficit this year will amount to about 3.5 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the economy, a figure that is still below where the United States was in the late 1980s.

Beyond the war costs, administration officials did not spell out the precise reasons for the deficit increase. Tax receipts are expected to climb by about \$200 billion in

2005, but mandatory spending for entitlement programs like Medicare and Medicaid is expected to rise significantly faster than the rate of inflation.

Bush defended his \$80 billion request for Iraq in a written statement Tuesday — he had no public events where he could be questioned about it by reporters — saying "our troops will have whatever they need to protect themselves and complete their mission." But on Capitol Hill, Democrats made clear that while the \$80 billion was likely to be approved, they would use the debate on it to question Bush's war strategy, just as they have done with the confirmation hearings for Condoleezza Rice, the president's choice to become secretary of state.

The White House made no estimate of the cost of the war beyond the next year, carefully not tipping its hand about how long Bush expects American troops to remain. But on Monday Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, the director of Army operations, said the Army was operating on the assumption that American force levels in Iraq would remain above 100,000 troops through 2007.

# Insurgents Continue Campaign To Intimidate, Stop Iraqi Voters

By Dexter Filkins  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

The black sedan made its way down Madaris Street, the young men inside tossing leaflets out the window.

"This is a final warning to all of those who plan to participate in the election," the leaflets said. "We vow to wash the streets of Baghdad with the voters' blood."

Thus was the war over Sunday's nationwide elections crystallized in a single incident on Tuesday in Mashal, an ethnically mixed neighborhood on the eastern edge of Baghdad, where many Iraqis say they would like to vote, and where a small, determined group of people are doing everything they can to stop them.

The leaflets, like many turning up on sidewalks and doorsteps across the capital, were chilling in their detail: they warned Iraqis to stay at least 500 yards away from voting booths, for each polling center would be the potential target of a rocket, mortar shell or car bomb. The leaflet suggested that Iraqis stay away from their windows, too, in case of blasts.

"To those of you who think you can vote and then run away," the leaflet warned, "we will shadow you and catch you, and we will cut off your heads and the heads of your children."

The effect of such intimidation, which is taking place across the country, will not be known until Sunday. Estimates vary, but Iraqi

officials say they would be pleased if the nationwide turnout reached 50 percent of the 14 million eligible voters. In some cities, like the Sunni-dominant cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, even a meager turnout would be welcomed.

In Madaris Street, the men in the black sedan got a hostile reception: Iraqi police officers spotted the car and opened fire, killing two of the men inside, residents said. The rest got away, after they had killed three officers.

Guerrilla groups have vowed to step up their attacks to disrupt the elections. On Tuesday, in Al Jededa, in southeast Baghdad, gunmen shot and killed Qais Hashem al-Shamari, a senior judge in the Justice Ministry, as he drove to work.

# WEATHER

## Winter is Here to Stay

By Cegeon J. Chan  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The Blizzard of 2005 has come and gone. It left Cambridge with 30" of snow and a mark in the history books. The 22.5" in Boston makes it the fifth snowiest storm ever in recorded history (~110 years). Just as people have finished plowing out, Mother Nature provides us with yet another snow storm. If you are sick of the snow, try to look on the positive side. Because of this recent blizzard and several snowstorms this past month, if Logan Airport receives 4 more inches in January, you can say you lived through the snowiest month ever recorded in Boston!

This current storm could give us the 4" of snowfall needed. Expect snow from sunrise to sunset with heaviest snowfall occurring in the late afternoon hours. The snowfall will finally taper off by the late morning hours on Thursday. Once this storm departs, it will leave behind a cold air-mass. Temperatures will be about 15-20 degrees below the climatological mean for Thursday and Friday. Wind chill values for Friday morning will be near -20 F, that means frostbite in less than 30 minutes. So, be sure to bundle up!

### Extended Forecast:

**Today:** Snow all day with heaviest snowfall in afternoon. Blustery with highs in the mid 20's (-5°C). Northeast winds gusting up to 30 mph.

**Tonight:** Continuing snowfall. Total snow accumulations 4-6". Lows near 10 (-12°C).

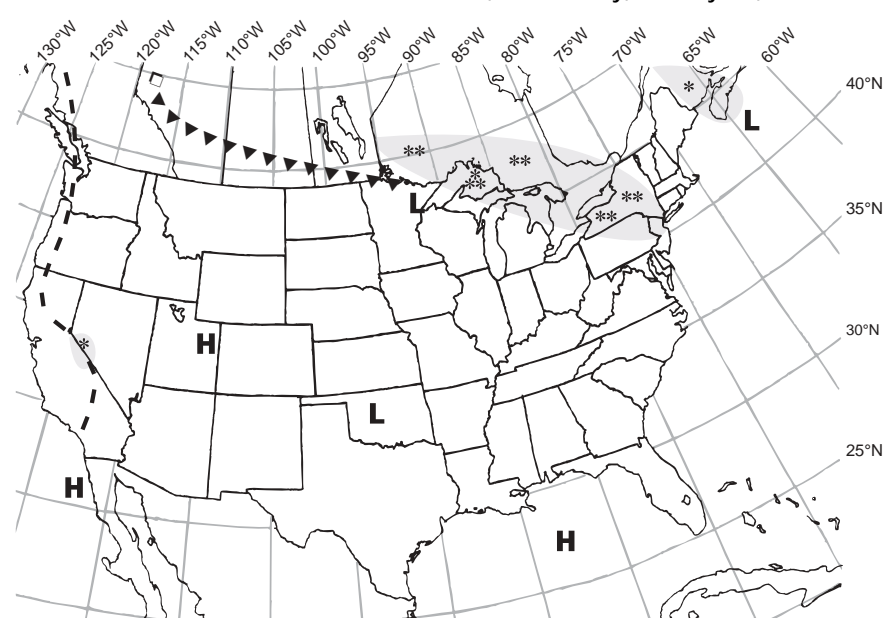
**Tomorrow:** Mostly sunny, breezy and colder with highs at 15°F (-10°C).

**Tomorrow night:** Mostly clear and much colder. Lows at 0°F (-18°C)

**Friday:** Mostly Sunny. Highs near 20°F (-7°C) and lows at 12°F (-11°C)

**Saturday:** Partly Cloudy. Highs at 30°F (-1°C) and lows at 20°F (-7°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 26, 2005



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Sun Microsystems' Solaris Ten System to Become Open Source

By Laurie J. Flynn  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sun Microsystems said on Tuesday that its Solaris 10 operating system would soon be available on an open-source basis, a move the company hopes will help counter the perception that its technology is too proprietary and pricier than the competition.

The decision means the software will be free and that programmers outside of Sun will be able to customize and improve it.

The company, based in Santa Clara, Calif., has lost considerable business in the market for computer servers to companies like Dell Computer and Hewlett-Packard, whose low-cost systems run Linux, a free open-source operating system. By offering its own open-source software for these so-called X86-based systems, Sun is hoping to gain the support of software developers and corporate information managers who dropped Sun products in favor of Linux-based systems.

John Loiacono, executive vice

president of software at Sun, said the decision to offer a free version of Solaris was intended to help Sun expand the market for its other programs and its servers. "The more people use Solaris, the more opportunities we have to sell other technologies," he said.

Solaris runs on standard servers from Dell, Hewlett, and others, as well as those made by Sun.

Scott G. McNealy, chief executive of Sun, said the company's technology had never been as closed as its competitors had tried to portray. Still, McNealy said, with many government agencies and corporations demanding open-source alternatives, the company felt it had to open up even further to compete.

McNealy said many large companies today preferred open-source software because they did not want to be dependent on a single vendor or source of technical support.

The company also announced that it would allow free use of the technology in 1,600 of its patents

related to Solaris, marking a strategic shift in the way Sun manages its patent portfolio. By eliminating what they called the patent "quagmire," Sun executives said they wanted to help developers get their technologies onto the market faster.

The company said a customizable source code for Solaris would be available in the second quarter. In the meantime, the company said it was establishing an advisory board to oversee development of the open-source software, called OpenSolaris.

Sun's move comes as it continues to struggle financially. Last week, the company announced that it had achieved a small profit in its second quarter, though its revenue declined.

Brian Richardson, an analyst at the Meta Group, said the open-source move would help Sun position its systems as an alternative to low-priced systems running other open-source software. "It's necessary to counter the threat of Linux," he said.

# Japanese Investment In America Increases After 15-year Dry Spell

By Terry Pristin  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Japanese investment in U.S. real estate soared in the 1980s, as companies and financial institutions poured nearly \$300 billion into high-profile properties like Rockefeller Center in New York and the Pebble Beach Golf Club in California. But the value of many of these assets plunged by as much as 50 percent in the early '90s, and for more than a decade, the Japanese have been sellers rather than buyers.

After a 15-year hiatus, however, Japanese capital is re-entering the U.S. market, but much more quietly and cautiously this time. "They have begun to test the waters again," said Bill Collins, who runs the capital markets group at Cassidy & Pinkard, a real estate services firm in Washington.

For the first time in years, for example, Mitsui Fudosan, Japan's largest real estate company and the owner since 1986 of 1251 Avenue of the Americas, the former Exxon Building, is searching for other buildings to buy in the two most competitive markets in the United States, said Michael W. McMahon, a senior vice president. "We're targeting Midtown Manhattan and

Washington, D.C.," he said.

A survey released this month by the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate, a trade group, found that most of its members expect the Japanese to lag only Germans and Australians as the most active foreign buyers of U.S. property.

"We have seen more activity from Japan in the past six months than we have in the past six years," said James A. Fetgatter, the trade group's chief executive. "I have Nikkei Shimbun coming in to talk to me today," he said, referring to the Japanese newspaper. "I've never met anyone from Nikkei Shimbun before."

So far, much of this Japanese money has been used to buy shares in publicly traded companies, rather than individual buildings. In October 2003, it became legal in Japan to sell portfolios of shares in real estate investment trusts, allowing special funds to be marketed specifically to Japanese investors. Some of these funds buy shares only in REITs based in the United States, which largely own property in this country, while other funds own a portfolio of REIT shares from various countries, including the United States.

Since these funds were first sold, investment in them has steadily

increased, reaching \$4.6 billion last month. Although this sum is just a fraction of the total \$300 billion invested in U.S. REITs, real estate specialists say it is significant nonetheless. "It's not a huge number, but it's an encouraging number," said Michael R. Grupe, a senior vice president of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, a trade group. "It's been a fairly even growth path."

Takayuki Kiura, the managing director of a new Tokyo office that Heitman, a Chicago-based company that manages capital on behalf of pension funds and other investors, opened just this month estimates that two-thirds of the \$4.6 billion is invested in United States REITs, with the rest in REITs in other countries.

A treaty that went into effect on July 1 gives Japanese investors in U.S. REITs the same tax status as American investors, enhancing the appeal of these funds, said Tony Edwards, the general counsel of the REIT trade group.

Heitman is just one of several American companies that have teamed with Japanese financial institutions to create REIT funds that are marketed to investors in Japan.

# FBI Says Alleged Terror Plot Against Boston Was Based on Fraudulent Tip

By Shelley Murphy  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The FBI announced Tuesday that an alleged terror plot against Boston has turned out to be a false alarm, putting to rest concerns that rattled the city last week.

The agency said there is nothing to a tipster's claim last week that four Chinese and two Iraqis, allegedly smuggled into the country from Mexico, had sought nuclear material and were headed to Boston to launch an attack.

One member of Boston's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said investigators now believe that Jose Ernesto Beltran Quiones, the alleged tipster, made up the threat in some sort of dispute over money in a smuggling operation he was involved in.

"It has been determined that the threat had no credibility," the FBI said in a statement released on its website. "There were in fact no terrorist plans or activity under

way."

Agents from Mexico's Federal Investigation Agency located Beltran, 34, Monday in the Mexican border town of Mexicali, and he confessed to making the call, according to an official in the federal attorney general's office who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Beltran, a taxi driver in Mexicali described by his wife as an "unstable person," told agents that he had called 911 in California from his cellphone and "warned of possible terrorist attacks in Boston or New York," the official said. Beltran said he was under the influence of drugs and alcohol and had meant the call "purely as a joke," the official said.

Beltran denied that he was involved with a smuggling ring, the official said.

The allegation of a terror plot emerged Jan. 19 and sent law enforcement officials throughout Massachusetts scrambling. Boston

police, the MBTA, and other agencies went on high alert, and Governor Mitt Romney canceled plans to attend President Bush's inauguration to return home to reassure the public there was no need to panic.

It began when a man called the California Highway Patrol anonymously on Jan. 17 claiming that he had helped smuggle the six over the border into California, and that they were planning to obtain nuclear material and launch an attack on Boston. He directed police to a package he had tossed over a border fence, containing three visas and an identity card for the four Chinese nationals, airline ticket stubs, and baggage-claim tickets containing additional names and information. He gave no information on the Iraqis.

From the beginning, authorities were stressing that the tip was from an unknown source and was uncorroborated. But they asked for the public's help in locating the people in question.

# FDA Approves Generic AIDS Cocktail to Help Poor Countries

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic triple-therapy AIDS cocktail, opening the way for American taxpayer dollars to be used to buy cheaper medicines for use in poor countries.

Assuming the drugs made by the approved company, Aspen Pharmacare of South Africa, are priced at a third to a half of brand-name ones, charities and poor nations getting Bush administration money will be able to treat two or three times as many patients.

The goal of the United States is to underwrite the treatment of 2 million patients internationally by 2008, according to Ambassador Randall L. Tobias, the U.S. global AIDS coordinator, who administers the \$15 billion that President Bush promised two years ago to the fight against AIDS.

The United States donates up to a third of the budget of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which can be spent on any drug approved by the World Health Organization. Most of the rest of the money from Tobias' office goes to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which serves 13 African countries, Haiti, Guyana and Vietnam, and can only be used for FDA-approved drugs.

# Apprise Media Acquires Beckett Publications

By Nat Ives  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Apprise Media, the company formed last year by a former president of Primedia to pursue acquisitions in niche publishing, said Tuesday that it had acquired its first property, Beckett Publications in Dallas.

Beckett is a publisher of enthusiast magazines and price guides for collectibles and trading cards. The cost of the deal was estimated at more than \$20 million.

Apprise named Peter A. Gudmundsson, 41, to take over as chief executive at Beckett, succeeding James Beckett, 55, who founded the company in 1984 and will serve as an adviser. Gudmundsson had been president at Design Guide Publishing in Dallas and previously held executive posts at Jobs.com and Primedia.

Apprise, which was founded by Charles G. McCurdy, is pursuing acquisitions with the support of Spectrum Equity Investments, which has committed \$175 million to \$200 million in backing. Potential future targets include enthusiast publishers similar to Beckett, business-to-business publishers and specialized marketing agencies.

The company previously pursued Thomson Media, the publisher of American Banker and The Bond Buyer, but was ultimately unsuccessful.

# Eight Tech Companies Agree On Digital Health Network

By Steve Lohr  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Eight of the nation's largest technology companies, including IBM, Microsoft and Oracle, have agreed to embrace open nonproprietary technology standards as the software building blocks for a national health information network.

The Bush administration has said that creating such a network should be a national priority over the next several years. The goal is to improve care and reduce costs by abandoning paper and moving to a digital system for handling patient records, clinical research, claims and payments. Such a network, analysts agree, should save both lives and dollars.

A crucial step, health care experts agree, will be to agree on technology standards for sending health data across the network and sharing information, when appropriate, among doctors, hospitals, insurers and researchers.

The eight companies are often rivals. But they said they formed an alliance, the Interoperability Consortium, to hasten the development of a digital health network. It submitted its recommendations to the government last week in a 134-page report.

A national health information network, analysts say, would not only improve the efficiency in America's fragmented health care system, but would also create an attractive market for information technology products and services. The eight companies in the consortium are IBM, Microsoft, Intel, Oracle, Accenture, Cisco, Hewlett-Packard and Computer Sciences.

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"Meatpacking is the most dangerous factory job in America," said the report's author, Lance Compa, who teaches industrial and labor relations at Cornell University and is a former union organizer and negotiator. "Dangerous conditions are cheaper for companies, and the government does next to nothing."

# OPINION

## Just Another Word



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### Josh Levinger

In case you missed President Bush's second inauguration speech, let me sum it up for you with one word: Freedom. Freedom with a capital F, as in FDR's famous four, Capitol Hill fries, and Mel Gibson wearing a kilt and blue war paint. Apparently, the terrorists hate us for our freedom, and we're going to do our damndest to spread it around the world just to piss them off. But there was something missing between the lofty liberal ideals, and the hidden religious rhetoric, something very basic: a definition. What exactly is this freedom that is God's gift to humanity?

When still-President Bush offers freedom to the rest of the world, is he pushing our democratic ideals like free press and speech, or merely capitalism? When he tells jailed dissidents that "when you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you" does he mean that we are willing to go to war with every two-bit despot, and China, too?

As a nation, we have made this promise before and failed to keep it. After the first Gulf War, the first President Bush told the

## Give me Liberty, Give me Death

### Ken Nesmith

President Bush kicked off his second term with an inauguration dedicated to idealism. Kicking around the hot button word "freedom" even more than usual, Bush pledged constant efforts towards peeling away the political chains and restrictions that bind populations worldwide.

Conservatives were split in their reaction; some thought the focus too lofty and idealistic, while others thought it set radiant standards for a new century. Liberals also thought the focus too disconnected from reality, and saw hypocrisy in the mouthing of support for

Shia majority to rise up, that we would support them. They did, and were duly slaughtered by Saddam — by the helicopters we allowed him to keep at the ceasefire talks in Safwan. President Bush later called the loss of life "unfortunate." In an apparent attempt to rectify the situation, we went to war with Iraq again, and are now learning that its people desire freedom from our occupying forces nearly as much as they did from Saddam. Or they are at least free enough to articulate their desires through roadside explosives.

But the President's speech was not about the past and the wars we've already fought in freedom's name. It was a clarion call to the future, and the wars we have yet to fight. It was a clear signal to Iran and North Korea, the last standing members of the axis of evil. We will show them the road to our kind of freedom, open markets and an "ownership society," whether they like it or not. Because freedom doesn't mean Islamism, or Communism. If the people choose one of those ends, we won't stand by them. We stood by and watched as democracy was suspended in Algeria in 1992, when Muslim extremists were prepared to win in a landslide.

freedom and democracy in light of American historical and contemporary practices of undermining elections, supporting dictators, and so forth. Some writers thought this speech to be fraught with ideals, but not idealistic — not a statement of policy, but a statement of what should be, with the knowledge that we haven't always done it, and won't always do it.

The common assumption underlying most discourse on this topic is that liberal democracy is the final stage of a concluded social dialectic; that having won ought over its 20th century competitors, liberal democracy need only sweep up the remnants of religious extremism here and there as it assumes its

We are currently preparing for an election in Iraq where perhaps 30 percent of the voters will be disenfranchised because "some pockets" will be too dangerous for voting. The expected pro-Shia results are not likely lead to a federal constitution where the rights of the ethnic minority Sunni and Kurds will be protected. Is this our idea of freedom, an election where we choose who can and cannot vote, and then apply the results equally to everyone? Or does freedom mean civil war, and chaos that makes the current insurgency pale in comparison?

Where is the freedom in the military bases we are building in Iraq to tighten our grip on the Middle East? Where is the freedom in the Patriot Act, passed without discussion, and soon to be made permanent? Where is the freedom in holding old men captive indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay?

The United States is no longer that shining city on a hill, that beacon of light to the world. Lady Liberty needs to adjust her torch, before we send her back to France. Despite President Bush's uplifting speech, those huddled masses may be stuck yearning to breath free for at least another four years.

place as the sole form of government. In the next decades, we may instead see that although liberal democracy is at the end of a long and bloody dialectic, it also provides the keys to its own demise, and once it is firmly established, its fatal problems may be immediately foreseen. It's just a speculation, but for evidence, watch the trajectory of developed democracies like United States and the European states over the next few decades in contrast to the trajectory of China, India, Brazil, and other rapidly developing nations.

As democracies mature, the size and scope of their governments tend to expand steadily. Every time a problem arises, the instinct is to

Nesmith, Page 5

## Letters To The Editor

### Narrow Focus in Theological Argument

Mr. Baldasaro ["No Ethics Without Religion" Jan. 19] omits major questions from his analysis of religion and morality, which leads him to believe that he makes sense when he clearly does not.

His first error is limiting the comparison of religion and science to the question of existence; namely, how the universe came to be. It is true that neither science nor religion has a good explanation for this event, but in the billions of years since then, science consistently beats religion in explaining natural phenomena. Why does lightning occur? The Greeks thought that Zeus threw lightning bolts down from Mount Olympus. Why did large numbers of gay men start dying of a mysterious disease in the 1980s? Pat Robertson will still tell you that it's because they got on God's bad side. And why have we found fossils that show a link between humans and great apes? It's because God put the fossils there as a puzzle to test our faith; a sort of prehistoric Mystery Hunt.

His second error is assuming that an "objective" morality is automatically superior to any other. This is blatantly false; a religion that compelled its adherents to kill all tall people would generate an objective morality as well, and I hope we would all be grave sinners in such a world. A teacher could objectively grade papers by assigning an "A" to a paper if

it had a prime number of words, but this grading scheme would be worse than random. Questions of "right" and "wrong" do not need a supernatural arbiter, and many nonbelievers are good simply because they want to be, not because they are afraid of divine retaliation. Is a person who reluctantly gives to the poor to avoid the flames of Hell truly good, or merely bullied into submission?

Finally, Mr. Baldasaro's handwaving rhetoric generates inaccurate conclusions such as "we are all religious" and "science and religion both fail to explain existence, therefore science is useless." A third of his readers have taken 6.042, and are dismayed by the giant holes in his logic; perhaps he should explain how the existence of religion, a manmade construct, can imply that everyone is intrinsically religious.

Religion is one of the most powerful ideas in the history of mankind; it has been responsible for more good and more evil than any other force. Yet its power is in its ability to shape people's actions, not as the cosmic final word on questions of morality.

Amal Dorai '05

### Viagra vs. Mircette

I would like to comment on your January 12th [World and Nation] article "Drug Makers to Give Uninsured Lower Prices for Prescriptions" by Robert Pear for *The New York Times*.

Now mind you this is a big step for the

drug companies and a break for the uninsured, so I am truly for this program; however, when you read the last paragraph listing a few of the 275 drugs on the program, one that caught a few of our eyes was Viagra. My point is: where is Mircette or the like for birth control for the woman?

Do you know that the MIT Pharmacy has Viagra on tier 2 [\$20 co-payment] where birth control prescriptions such as Mircette are tier 3 [\$35 co-payment].

That's a \$20.00 co-pay for Viagra to help men get a hard on, and a \$35.00 co-pay for the woman to protect herself against unwanted pregnancies. What is more crucial here?

MIT Medical appears to say Viagra?

What do you say?

Jane Roberts-Kopp  
MIT Real Estate Office

### Erratum

A news article last Wednesday ["GSC Recommends New LGBT Office, Dean Position," Jan. 19] misstated the authorship of the proposal for an Office and Assistant Dean of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgendered Services. It was written by a sub-committee of the LGBT Issues Group, a group of students, faculty, staff and alumni, not by Brian A. Rubineau G.

### Opinion Policy

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

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# The Evil Wealthy, Or the Good Investors?

Nesmith, from Page 4

go to the government to craft a public policy to address it. It's a natural response: the government has power and resources, and can command the attention of all parties relevant to any problem. Best of all, the government's word is, of course, law. Admittedly, this is better than every disagreement devolving into tribal warfare

In countries where the majority makes ever more of the decisions, where capital is allocated ever more through political processes rather than ones based on personal ownership structures, predictable problems arise. Populations come to see government as a panacea with unlimited resources, and extract promises that can do fatal harm in the long run. Demands for generous subsidy and entitlement programs create huge debts like the ones America and Europe now face, for things like health care and retirement funding that are near impossible to moderate under political pressure.

Right now, we're spending far more than we're producing, both on the government and private level. We're able to do so thanks to a remarkable inflow of foreign capital — not only from governments whose central banks are buying our debt, but also from private capital investment from around the world, investment that far exceeds what foreign governments are doing. There are a lot of tea leaves to be read in the current state: one can look at the size of government and consumer debts, in both relative and absolute terms, and balk. One can look at the proportion of foreign free capital currently financing U.S. debt and balk again. Most ominously, one can look at the spending habits of the U.S. government, look at the impending costs of social security and Medicare (a bit under \$100 trillion, in present value), then take a look at the democratic discourse on the topic, and begin to really get nervous.

Are there any tea leaves presaging boom rather than doom? Ricardo Caballero, an Economics Professor at MIT, takes a look at the relatively free U.S. economy, a place ripe for investment, commerce, and growth, and predicts that foreign capital will continue to head our way, financing our debt. The U.S. provides savings instruments for capital more effectively than the rest of the world, and hence will continue to receive the bulk of that business.

Unfortunately, that's about the total of the happy tea leaves — that probably, hopefully, ideally, foreign capital will continue to flow this way. If competing savings instruments arise as lean and mean capitalist economies emerge in the East and elsewhere in the world, or if our voracious appetite for debt cannot be checked, watch out. We know competitive economies are emerging as China and India strengthen their embrace of free trade and smaller government. Furthermore, anyone with an eye on the news of the last few months knows that our voracious appetite for debt will not be checked easily. For one informative example, take a look at what former campus local Paul Krugman has done in the last few months. He's written a steady series of columns about social security that highlight his remarkable ability to talk about a topic without really addressing the roots of it directly; where political stabs consistently trump honest economic analysis.

It's a maddening, rhetorical skill. But the fire and vigor he and others dedicate to the task of saving today's pyramid scheme social security are a telling indicator of how hard it will be to manage our impending debts. (Krugman felt so passionately that he returned from his vacation several weeks early to begin writing about the topic.) An attempt to relieve ourselves from a program engineered in such a way that it creates unprecedented debt levels, given the way the government has spent social security surplus revenues in the last few decades, is meeting trenchant, furious opposition.

This belief in natural claim and entitlement is the dessert brought by prosperous liberal democracy. As national prosperity is built, our collective consciousness begins to lay claim to pieces of it, and we refuse to let go of our piece. In much of Europe, they've gone further down a road of taxation and entitlement than we have, and consequently their growth has been stifled and their standard of living hurt. A high-tax, slow growth economy will leave us behind in a global competition.

The tale for the resisters is easy to spin: corporate evildoers and the wealthy are out to screw the average guy, and that we need to fight for rights to employment, housing,

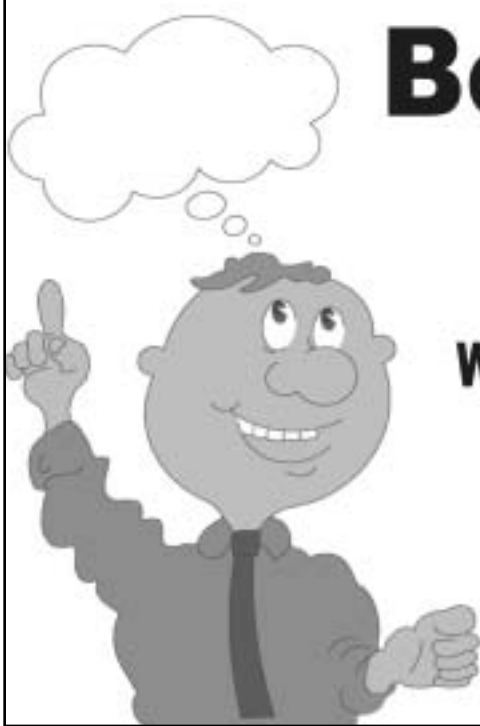
health care, retirement, and a comfortable lifestyle, or else some fat-cat holdover from the gilded age will take it all away. But we're looking in the wrong place. The guy who will take it all away is the guy who has lived on the edge of starvation all his life on a rural farm in China, and can now compete for manufacturing jobs in a city, or the girl who completed technical studies in India and can now perform complex tasks as well as any American competitor — for a fraction of the cost. The global worker newly exposed to the opportunities of trade and commerce who can compete on a level playing field with the American or European will provide us our challenge.

That misplaced focus on the evil wealthy, and the attendant righteous anger, may write our fate of economic stagnation, with declining national spirits, health, and prosperity throughout society. More broadly, this pattern may map the standard path for liberal democracy — freedom and growth, leading to complacency and prosperity, and then decline in the face of whatever hungry competition is emerging from the impoverished ashes of the current epoch.

Is liberal democracy the apex of human social organization, and a cyclical rise and fall its fate? Maybe so; for now, moving away from tribalism and tyrannies towards prosperous liberal democracies surely is a fine goal — a point made painfully clear by the bloody struggle in Iraq merely to have an election.

Got an opinion?

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"Sworn" in for a second term.



CONDITIONS IN IRAQ MEAN CANDIDATES ARE KEEPING A LOW PROFILE, SHUNNING CAMPAIGN COMMERCIALS, AVOIDING PUBLIC SPEECHES

IRAQIS HAVENT EMBRACED AMERICAN-STYLE DEMOCRACY... THEY'VE IMPROVED IT

MIKE THOMPSON

## Trio

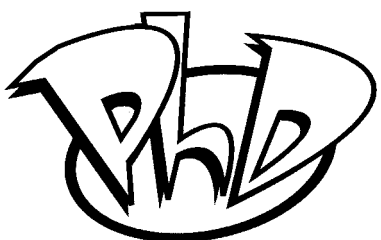
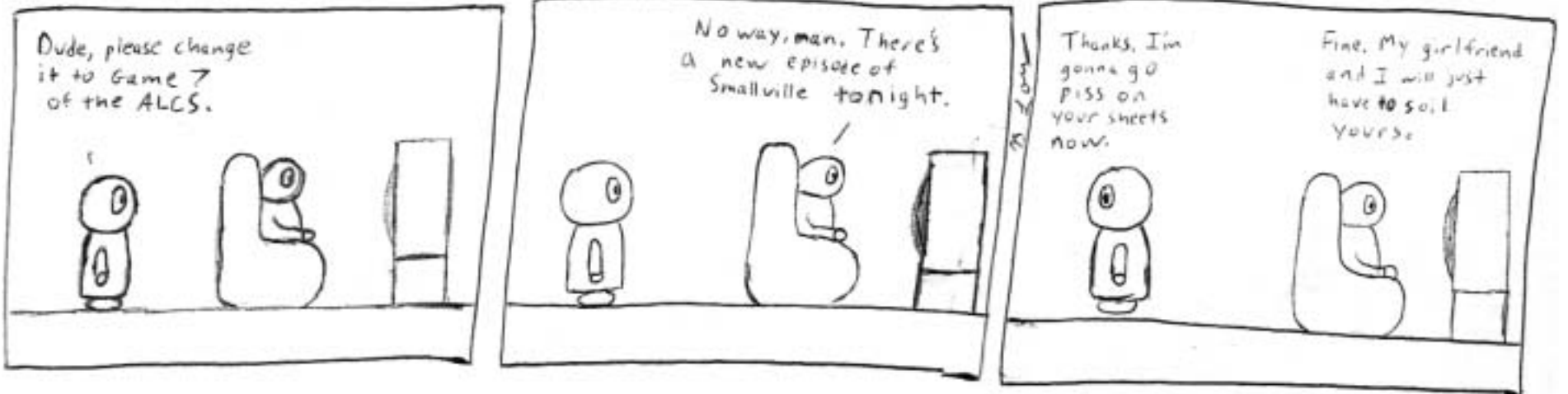
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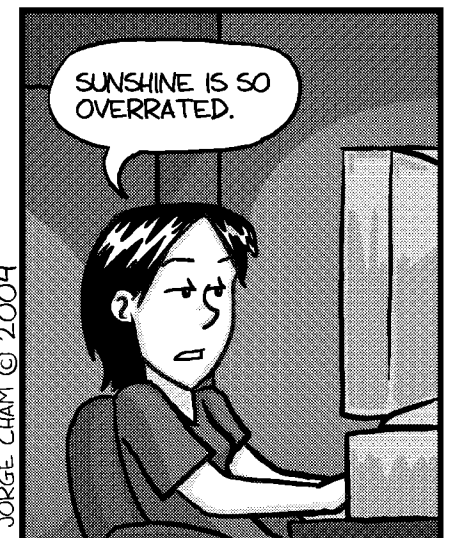
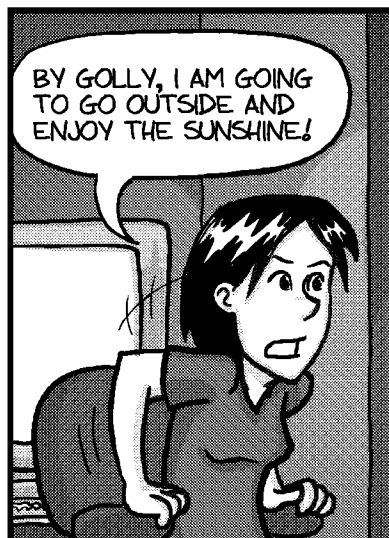


## Roommates

by Brian Loux



PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

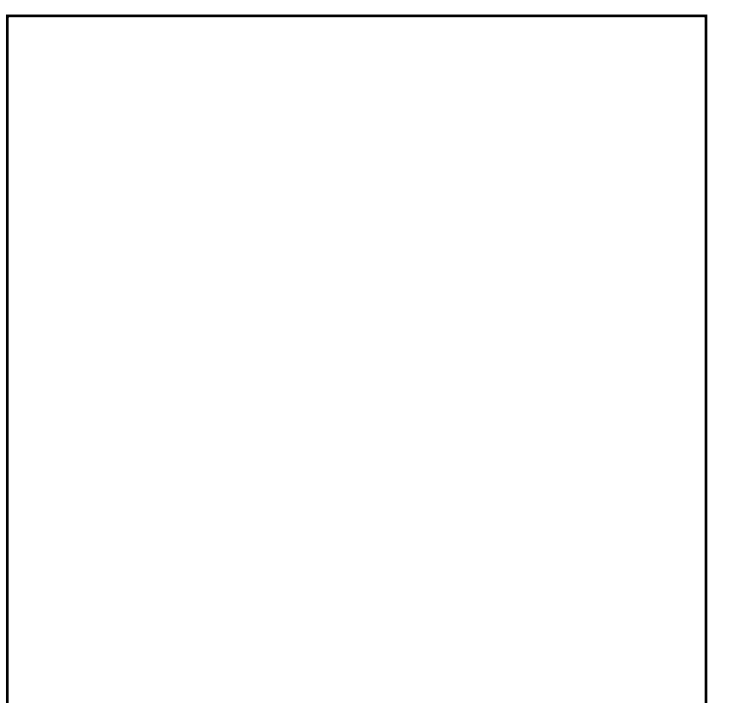


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### Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 17



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# Dilbert® by Scott Adams

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## ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★★★★

# Looking 'Sideways' On Life

## Road Trip Film Offers Laughs, Great Characters

By Kapil Amarnath

*Sideways*  
 Directed by Alexander Payne  
 Written by Jim Taylor and Alexander Payne  
 Starring Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Sandra Oh, Virginia Madsen  
 Rated R

Alexander Payne directed "About Schmidt" and "Election"; both films were sardonic, almost to the extent that they left a bitter taste. In "Sideways," however, Payne and co-screenwriter Jim Taylor have created a much more balanced and enjoyable movie. It features great performances across the board, and any depressing subject matter is lightened with hilarious situations that arise naturally within the plot.

Miles (Paul Giamatti) is a depressed, struggling, and divorced writer who teaches middle school English. He's best friends with Jack (Thomas Haden Church), a C-class actor with an uncontrollable libido. Miles and Jack go on one final road trip in beautiful Napa Valley, California, a week before Jack's wedding. Miles, a winelover, has planned to go to several wineries and play golf. Jack, however, has other ideas in mind, such as hooking up with wine pourer Stephanie (Sandra Oh) and getting Miles laid, possibly with Maya (Virginia Madsen), a waitress and fellow oenophile.

Wine plays a symbolic role throughout the movie and helps to define Miles' character. My favorite scene in the film involves Miles and Maya and demonstrates their love for wine. Miles begins to describe the Pinet Noir wine, his favorite. As he talks, Maya realizes that he is in fact describing himself. When she responds, she takes over the screen and radiates understanding; I fell in love with her right then. In addition, Miles and Jack stumble "sideways" (Rex Pickett, author of the book on which this movie is based, has said that "sideways" is an alternative to "drunk") from one episode to the next, each punctuated with great dialogue between the two friends.

Payne focuses the camera on Miles, often at eye level, and as a result the viewer sympathizes with him. For example, before the two



TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Miles (Paul Giamatti) and friends enjoy wine in the California countryside in "Sideways."

embark on the trip, Miles wants to stop at his mother's house because it's her birthday. While he's there, however, he steals money from her, and Payne allows us to see Miles' guilty, strained perspective through camera position. As the movie progresses, Payne continually uses close-ups of Miles at his weakest moments, drawing the audience closer to the character. At the end, the camera slowly zooms in on Miles as he observes his friend's marriage with a detached, secure smirk, having relaxed his once harsh perspective on life.

For those of you who have never heard of Giamatti, he did drama at Yale and worked on

Broadway before gradually climbing the ranks in Hollywood (he has appeared in several small roles in movies like "Saving Private Ryan"). This performance should make him a household name, though. He did the sad-sack thing in "American Splendor," where he portrayed the rumpled comic book writer Harvey Pekar, and he does it again here. In "Sideways," he adds to this character type, revealing his ability for physical humor. His eyes bulge out in a move that rivals Nicholson's eyebrow wag. On a couple of occasions, he bursts into such physical hysterics that I was left in awe of his acting ability while laughing

at his antics.

The supporting acting is also extremely good. Haden Church, known for playing a mechanic in "Wings," is more playful and childlike than Robin Williams ever was. Madsen, who was a hot star in the 80's, does perhaps her finest work here.

It's rare to see such a good road trip movie, one that's on the level of the many great road trip books, like Kerouac's "On the Road." Instead of defining an era, "Sideways" defines the middle-age period of one man's life, in a way that will leave you wanting more.

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OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Meri Silberstein passes the baton to Leanne Veldhuis in the 4x200m relay. The MIT women's track team hosted teams from Williams College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute last Saturday at the Johnson Athletic Center.

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# Blizzard Shuts Down Cambridge, Surrounding Areas

By Joanna Weiss  
and Maria Cramer  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massachusetts roads were treacherous, hundreds of houses were without electricity, and people were stuck outside — and inside — their homes Monday in parts of Cape Cod, hit hard by the Blizzard of 2005.

The storm ripped into the region with such ferocity it surprised even those used to disasters.

As power outages developed early Sunday on the Cape, people began frantically calling police and town managers, searching for the nearest shelter. The American Red Cross was spurred to double the number of shelters from four to eight.

Police and firefighters, already struggling to help people who were stranded on the roads, were called in to drive elderly residents, families without heat, and even volunteers, to nearby shelters.

Centerville residents Jane and Albert Ruddick, both 89, were still shaken by the storm Monday as they waited for their son to pick them up from a shelter at Barnstable High School.

"I just hope I never have to go through another snowstorm like that again," said Jane Ruddick. "That was so frightening."

She and her husband left their house so quickly Sunday morning, they only had time to put on sneakers and light coats before police drove them to the shelter. They packed a small suitcase but never changed out of their clothes.

The four additional shelters were opened in Provincetown, Chatham, Falmouth, and Eastham, said Paul Clark, director of Preparedness and Response for the Cape Cod Chapter of the Red Cross, which operates out of Hyannis.

By late evening Monday, one shelter, in Sandwich, remained open. Snow still blocked some side streets, preventing people from getting to their homes.

Unplowed roads also kept people trapped inside their houses Monday, said Trooper Bruce Buckley of the Massachusetts State Police in Yarmouth.



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

**HELL ACTUALLY DOES FREEZE OVER** — Killian Court lies underneath thirty inches of snow following last weekend's storm.

"A lot of them can't get out. We've had a few calls," he said. "There is some apprehension in their voices but we know we can get someone down there if they need it."

Route 6 from Exit 4 to Provincetown was open, but parts of it were still covered in snow and ice, he said.

"Seems like every half hour someone is going fast and spinning out," Clark said. Several cars had to be pulled out of snowbanks but there were no serious accidents on the highways.

About 500 homes remained without electricity on the Cape Monday, said a spokesman for NStar, and 150 to 200 in Plymouth, New Bedford, and Wareham.

The fifth-biggest blizzard in the region's recorded history caused its share of debilitation and danger. In

Plymouth, a pregnant woman and her two children were in critical condition with carbon monoxide poisoning Monday at Massachusetts General Hospital, after their furnace exhaust vent was blocked by a 4-foot snow drift.

In Cambridge, a 7-year-old boy was treated and released at Massachusetts General Hospital after also inhaling carbon monoxide while waiting in a car for his older brother, officials there said. And in Boston, police Monday afternoon suspected carbon monoxide poisoning when they found an unidentified man slumped behind the wheel of his car on Huntington Avenue.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino urged residents to dig out their fireplace, dryer, and heating system vents and shovel out fire hydrants in front of their homes. He also asked parents not to let their children play in snowbanks, saying they could slip and fall into the street.

The return to school will be somber at Orchard Gardens pilot school in Boston, where a 10-year-old boy who died of carbon monoxide poisoning and cardiac arrest Sunday was a student. Angel Serrano, of Roxbury, was sitting in a running car with a snow-clogged tailpipe.

Najwa Abdul-Tawwab, Orchard Gardens principal, said staff members will be available to comfort teachers and pupils as well as educate families about the dangers of carbon monoxide.

"He was a very sweet, quiet, well-behaved student," she said of Angel. "It's a great loss for children as well as staff and family."

The roof of the Plymouth Sports Dome had deflated like a giant balloon by 9 a.m. Monday, unable to bear the weight of a day's worth of snowfall.

"It's like a big void, emotionally and physically," Jason Tassinari, the general manager of the facility, said Monday.

In Boston, many people went back to work.

It was the day of the duck boot, the shovel, the snowshoe, the sense of determination.

Thanks to four-wheel-drive, fuzzy hats, and practical shoes, the wheels of commerce churned — albeit slowly — Monday, causing some downtown garages to fill to near-capacity, and creating some hardship for cleanup crews. Menino said he was surprised, and a bit dismayed, at how many cars he saw inching through the streets of downtown Boston Monday.

"The roadways are much narrower now than they were last week. Give us that opportunity to

widen the streets," said Menino, who noted that another storm is predicted for Wednesday, threatening to clog passageways even further.

But whether they braved the roadways or public transportation, many New Englanders said a combination of fair warning, weekend snowfalls, and early plowing made it easy to head to the office. Attorney Matthew Kiefer — who cross-country skied down Washington Street in Jamaica Plain on Sunday — thought nothing about setting off Monday for his Atlantic Avenue law office, where he figured it was 80 percent staffed.

"People have a certain sense of not wanting to be defeated by the weather," he said. "A certain sense of hardiness, of 'We're New Englanders. We face this all the time.'"

Schools across the region were closed, and many communities — including Boston, Salem, Revere, Cambridge, and Lynn — canceled school again Tuesday to give work crews time to clear all of the streets. In Boston, city workers prepared six "snow farms" where they could dump snow trucked away from school sites.

But for every story of a closure and collapse, it seemed that someone stayed open for business. Wayland School Superintendent Gary Burton refused to cancel classes for his 3,000 students Monday, citing a long tradition of staying open on snow days. The most recent closure, for a storm on Jan. 6, was the first closing in four years.

Burton said the streets, stairs, and schoolyards were clear and it was safe enough to open schools but he took some heat for his decision. By midday the calls were running 60 percent to 40 percent against him. Teachers teased him at lunchtime, and a student scolded him for keeping kids from playing in the snow.

"I'm not the most popular person in the world, but superintendents seldom are," Burton said Monday.

Then there was the work of shoveling, which left many residents cursing their lot Monday. In Dorchester, Charlie Hodges, 48, and Jimmy Poland, 74, worked to dig out their cars, buried in drifts that covered the doors.

"This is probably the worst that I can remember," said Hodges, bundled in a parka and a rabbit-hair cap with built-in earflaps.

Poland straightened up and leaned on his shovel as he worked on his wife's car, still half-buried in the snow. "What I think of it, you couldn't print," said Poland, half joking. "And there's more coming on Wednesday."

The National Weather Service in Taunton is predicting 3 to 5 inches of snow Wednesday, possibly starting in the morning and continuing through the afternoon. Temperatures are expected to stay below freezing through the end of the week, though they could rise to 30 degrees in Boston Tuesday.

Those who took public transportation to work found it wasn't always easy. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority was plagued by problems, with nearly every subway and commuter rail line facing equipment breakdowns throughout the day.

Libby De Vecchi, a public relations worker, took a train and a bus to get to her Downtown Crossing office, but the 20-minute commute took nearly an hour. Delays on the Red Line left a line of shivering people seven deep. Finally they gave up and trudged up the stairs to catch the bus.

"We let our riders down, and I'm extremely disappointed," said MBTA General Manager Michael H. Mulhern. "Despite the governor and the mayor's call for people to stay home and businesses to remain closed, the MBTA did see much higher ridership than we would have expected. In a way it's a backhanded compliment to the system. But the fact is that we battled the storm for 48 hours and it took its toll on the equipment and it took its toll on MBTA personnel."

Some people — many of them parents — took rare days at home, and found themselves amazed by the experience.

Pam Gray-Bennett gazed out her Marshfield window at the North River Monday and chuckled as a seagull struggled to fly into the wind. She thought the towering snowdrifts that jammed her driveway made it seem that her house was on a hill.

"I don't stop enough to look," said Gray-Bennett, 58, as she tapped out e-mails and answered phone calls from home instead of commuting to Bedford, where she is director of the commission on public secondary schools for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. "And it's really stunningly beautiful where I am now."

But — barring an unforeseen wallop from Wednesday's storm — the break won't last forever.

For state workers, who were urged to stay home on Monday, it's already at an end. Monday afternoon, a new message came from Governor Mitt Romney: you're back to work.

Maria Sacchetti, Mac Daniel, John Ellement, and Justin Aucoin of The Globe staff contributed to this report.



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

A panel of judges tastes samples of different varieties of brownies from "Too-Well-Done Brownies" to "Grandma's Brownies" to "The Experience" at the Battle of the Brownies held on Friday, Jan. 21. The battle was sponsored by the Laboratory for Chocolate Science and the Undergraduate Association. Judges ranged from young children to students to professors and MIT administration.

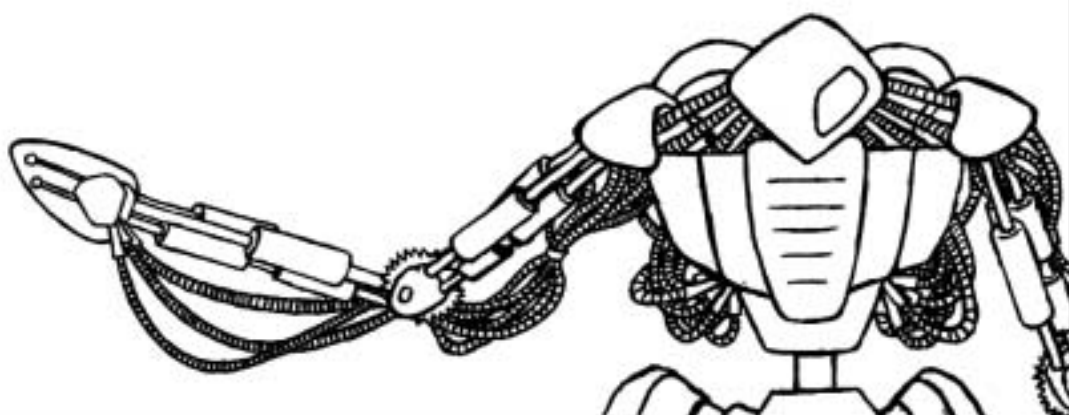


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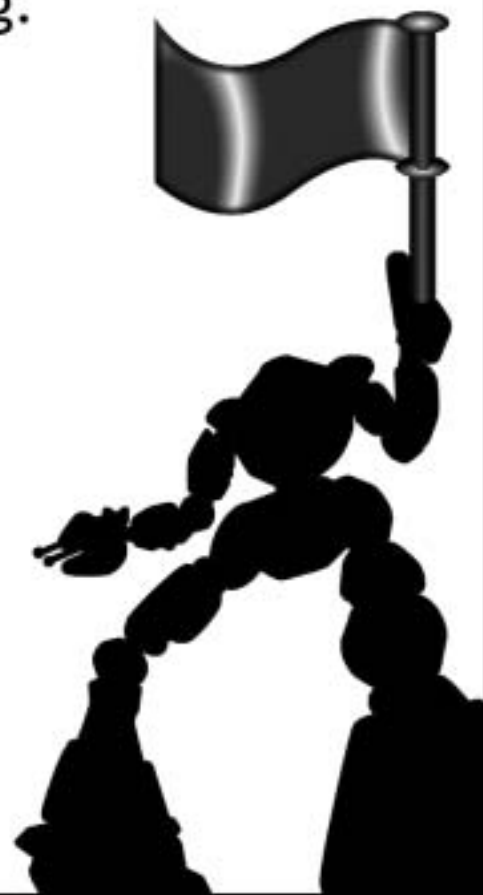
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## Howard Brown

Brown, from Page 1

warm, and interesting, and never failed to put a smile on my face."

Brown had received the James N. Murphy Award in 2000 for having made "an immeasurable contribution to community life at the Institute," according to *Tech Talk*.

Richmond wrote in 1999 that the time of his retirement Brown had expressed wishes to have his ashes scattered on Kresge oval because he "want[ed] to be looking at the student center."



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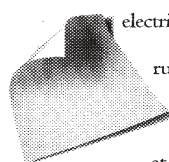
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Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo.

electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And

how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot.

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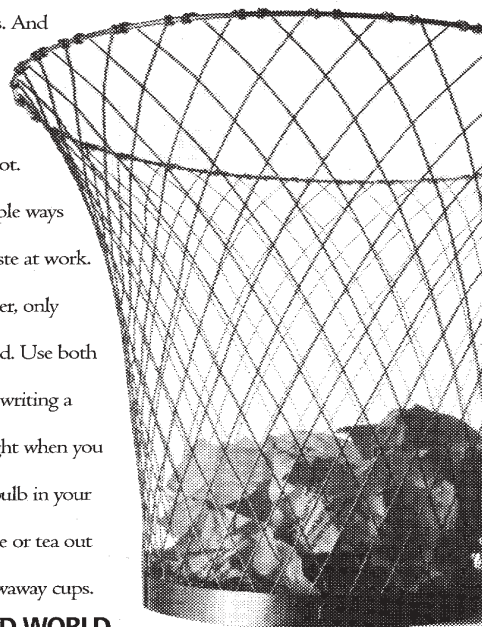
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Important information is available on the web:

Grants Guidelines: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html>

Application form: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantform.html>

# Informal IAP, Spring Rush for Frats, ILGs

Rush, from Page 1

ment this coming Monday. "MIT will not provide us any space on campus, so we have to pay for a hotel," said Ortiz.

The first two rounds of the sorority recruitment process will take place on Thursday and Friday. Bids are given out on Monday, and the girls have until 8:00 p.m. to accept and become affiliated. Recruitment counselors are also re-affiliated in a ceremony on Monday evening.

"Right now, we're asking girls who are affiliated to refrain from contacting recruitment counselors, and encouraging freshmen to sign up," added Panhel Vice President of Recruitment Robin M. Davis '05.

Since this is the third year sorority recruitment has taken place during IAP instead of fall, a Panhel committee will be studying the data from the last three years next semester and reassessing whether recruitment should be kept that way, Ortiz said.

Panel is encouraging all girls to consider joining, and is reaching out to upperclassmen. "One of the things we're trying to get out to people is this idea of looking past stereotypes... to make sure girls are keeping an open mind," said Nikki A. Pfarr '06, incoming Panhel president.

"We're trying to talk to upperclassmen, trying to get them to register for recruitment too," said Panhel President Christine M. Ortiz '05.

"We do have upperclassmen [participating in the recruitment process]. The numbers have been rising, and we're hoping to get even more upperclassmen this year," she said.

## IFC facilitates spring recruitment

Meanwhile, many fraternities have been holding rush events, said Interfraternity Council Recruitment Chair Brad W. Schiller '07. "Every house to some extent is doing recruitment... picking up people in the spring is good," said Schiller.

The fraternities hosting events throughout IAP and continuing into February include Alpha Delta Phi, Pi Lambda Phi, Sigma Epsilon, Tau Epsilon Phi, Theta Chi, Theta Xi, and Zeta Psi.

This is the first year that the IFC has been involved in spring recruitment. "Fraternities really want to use this time to get members that can be a good contribution to their houses... the IFC can help promote events, [pay for] advertising, and hold events that provide chances for affiliated members to meet nonaffiliated members," such as a recent breakfast in Lobby 10, Schiller said.

After a fall rush which resulted in a total of slightly over 300 pledges, the IFC will be keeping track of bid and pledge numbers as usual during IAP and the spring, but no data has been gathered yet. "We feel that it's going fairly well right now, and during the term it's going to be stepped up a little bit, houses will probably be more active... We would like as many pledges as possible during the spring," Schiller said.

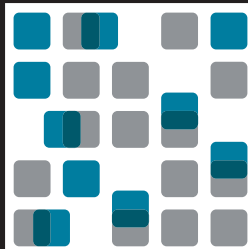
Upcoming rush activities this weekend include capture the flag at ADP and a Halo tournament at PLP, Schiller said.

## ILGs hold informal rush

Finally, many independent living

groups have been holding their own special IAP and spring rush events as well. An informal Living Group Council kickoff event took place on the afternoon of Jan. 12, said Fenway House's House Manager Lisa Wu '05. Three of MIT's five independent living groups, Epsilon Theta, Fenway House, and Women's Independent Living Group, were present at the casual event which offered card games and free food. WILG chose not to rush over IAP, and will instead begin its rush on Jan. 30. WILG Rush Chair Diane Yang '05 said in e-mail.

"This spring rush was a little more independent than previous years... In previous years, there were formal LGC organized kickoffs," Wu said.



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## Solution to Crossword

from page 6

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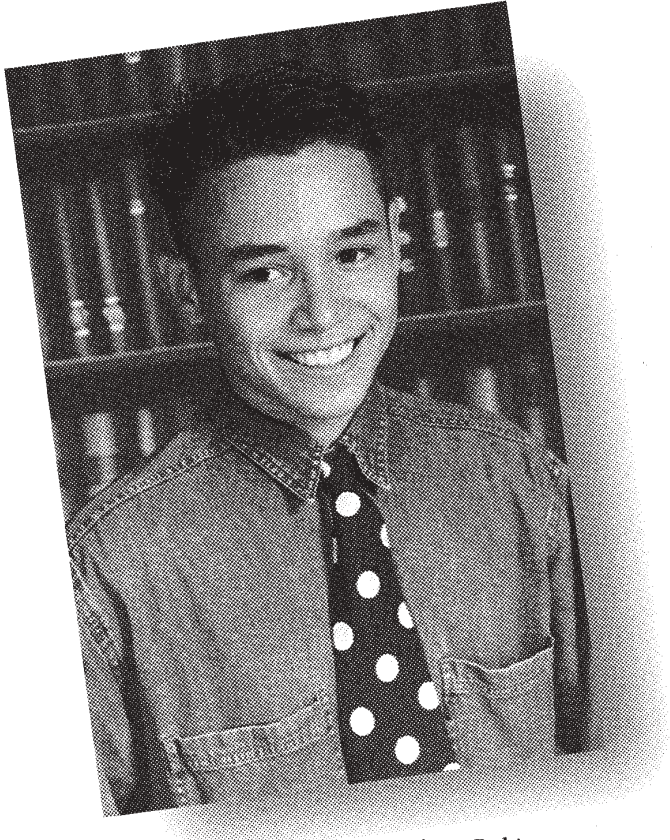
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# Harvard Faculty Reconsider Summers as President

By Sara Rimer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Among Harvard's faculty, the underlying conversation right now is not about gender differences and the ability of women to succeed in math and science. It is about the ability of Lawrence H. Summers '75 to succeed as president of the university.

The uproar over Summers' remarks suggesting that innate gender differences might explain the lack of women in math and science careers comes against the backdrop of distress over his management style, which has been building since he took over three and a half years ago.

A dozen Harvard professors, as well as other educators associated with the university, said in interviews that for all his intellectual vigor and innovative vision, Summers, a former Harvard economics professor, has created a reservoir of ill will with what they say is a pattern of humiliating faculty members in meetings, shutting down debate and dominating discussions. This ill will, they say, has helped fuel the fury on campus over what Summers initially said were meant to be provocative, off-the-record remarks at an academic conference here on Jan. 14.

"Larry is stimulating to argue with one on one and would be admirably controversial as a colleague," said Daniel S. Fisher, a Harvard professor of physics and applied physics, who has observed Summers in many meetings. "But with Larry as president, the rules are clear. For the president, it is fine to be provocative, but for faculty, serious questions and constructive dissent are squelched."

The support of the faculty is particularly important now, as Summers pushes ahead with his ambitious plans to expand the campus across the Charles River, revise the undergraduate curriculum, make Harvard pre-eminent in big science and bring more low-income students to the university. The many admirers of Summers say his brash style makes him just the person to lead Harvard into the future.

Steven Pinker, a star psychology professor who left the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for Harvard a year ago, called Summers a "refreshing" change from the "bland diplomats" that he said college presidents tend to be today.

"He does speak his mind," said Pinker, whose work Summers is known to admire and which provided much of the foundation for the recent remarks about women. "He subscribes to the idea that ideas should be discussed. He enjoys stating his position forcefully. He enjoys a forceful rejoinder. He doesn't believe people should wilt under the pressure of a good argument."

But his critics say Summers puts his ego before the university and its academic values.

"He just dominates faculty meetings," said Mary C. Waters, the chairwoman of the sociology department. "There's no dialogue. You speak and then Larry responds."

Most professors who were interviewed refused to be identified, saying they were afraid of retribution from Summers. Those who did speak on the record took pains to mute their public criticism.

Summers spent much of last week apologizing for his remarks about women and science and declaring his intention to recruit more women as science professors.

In an interview on Friday, Summers said his propensity to debate and challenge "sometimes leaves people thinking I'm resistant to their ideas when I am really trying to engage with their ideas." Asked if he thought he needed to adjust his style, he said, "I've learned from this experience."

Whatever anger and resentment he has stirred among the faculty, Summers appears to have the strong support of the Harvard Corporation's seven-member board, which includes him and his former mentor Robert E. Rubin, who like Summers served as Treasury secretary under President Bill Clinton.

"I think he is an outstanding president and he has a chance to be one of Harvard's greatest presidents," Rubin said. He added that he was unaware of widespread faculty discontent with the management style of Summers.

Summers was only a few months into the job when he got into a fight with Cornel West, a star of the Afro-American Studies department, over his scholarship, which resulted in West's highly publicized departure for Princeton. ("Good morning, Mr. President, who have you insulted today?" Clinton said to Summers in a telephone conference call after the West incident).



TECHNIQUE 1975 YEARBOOK

Lawrence H. Summers received his Bachelors of Science in Economics from MIT in 1975.

Several months later, invited to speak at a conference on globalization sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Summers stunned many professors with his brusque dismissal of their views on the subject, saying those who voiced concern about the possible downside of globalization were naive. At an early meeting with some 80 law school professors,

Summers dismissed as stupid the reasoning behind a junior faculty member's suggestion about which departments might benefit by moving across the Charles River, to Allston, Massachusetts, though he later apologized. Some professors who were present felt that Summers was dismissing the faculty member along with her suggestion. Fisher and others cite many recent examples in which Summers has dismissed their views or questions, or put down their colleagues. Waters said she and many other women on the faculty left a meeting with Summers in October feeling he had not understood their concerns over the sharp decline in the recruiting of tenured female faculty members. But Melissa Franklin, a physics professor who had spoken out at the meeting, said she felt encouraged afterward when Summers telephoned her to say he wanted to explore her concerns.

Summers' reputation had preceded him to Harvard, and was even the subject of discussion on the presidential search committee. "When Larry was being considered for president, his provocative manner and insensitivity to others was the major criticism raised by skeptics," said Howard Gardner, a professor of cognition at the Harvard education school and an expert on leadership.

Supporters like Rubin "gave assurances that he'd gotten a education in Washington, that his rough edges had been smoothed," Gardner said. "On the basis of what I have observed and heard from colleagues, I now believe, regrettably, that the supporters were expressing a hope rather than a reality."

Gardner made a point of saying that in many ways he still considers Summers "an impressive leader," adding, "but I fear that his inability to anticipate the effects of his informal remarks — both in terms of content and in terms of style — could cripple his effectiveness."

His critics say that Summers brings a hierarchical management style that is especially ill-suited to Harvard, a decentralized institution where much of the power resides with the deans of the university's 10 separate schools, and where many faculty members have their own large egos as well as lifetime appointments. A president, they say, needs diplomatic skills to persuade the faculty to support his ini-

tiatives and work out compromises.

"For me it's sad that Harvard isn't able to benefit from all the upside potential of Summers as a leader because he doesn't know what kind of organization he's operating in," said Theda Skocpol, a professor of government. "And he's often self-centered and discourages people around him." Skocpol observed that Summers' advantages as a leader include his incisiveness and ability to "identify a problem and throw out challenges."

Summers has made no secret that he intends to shake up Harvard and that intimidation may sometimes be required. In a mostly admiring article in the British newspaper The Guardian in October, he is quoted as saying, "You know, sometimes fear does the work of reason."

Told that many faculty members had described him as a bully who

squelches debate, Summers said the criticism was unjustified. "I've not, since I've been here, resisted a meeting or a discussion with any faculty member on the university," he said. "I've never suppressed anyone's views."

Told that many faculty members said he had created an atmosphere of intimidation, he said: "I'm really sorry if that's true. It's certainly not my intent."

Even his critics say Summers is highly accessible. He might insult someone in a meeting, they say, and then telephone afterward to apologize and solicit their views. The problem, his critics say, is that his confrontational style and tendency to criticize the ideas of faculty members in front of their colleagues requires an equally combative response. And, as president, he has the upper hand in the battle.

"If you come back at him and hold your own, you come out all right," said Everett Mendelsohn, who has been a Harvard professor of the history of science for 40 years. "I've done it on a number of occasions." But Mendelsohn added that many of his colleagues, while no shrinking violets, nevertheless feel afraid to speak up.

Waters, who has published seven books, says she is not afraid of Summers. But she said she stopped going to meetings of the faculty advisory committee for the search for the dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences because she felt Summers was ignoring the faculty's views. She said she subsequently turned down a request to be co-chairwoman of a curriculum review committee because she has become skeptical of Summers' interest in faculty opinions.

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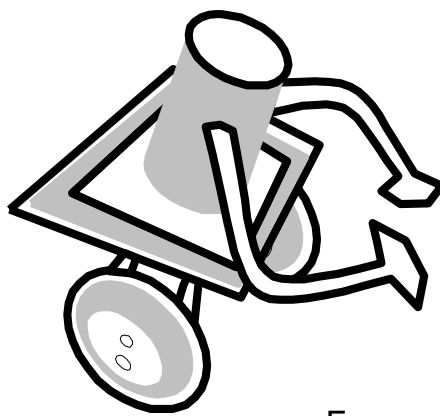


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## SPORTS

## MIT Men's Volleyball Begins '05 with Wins

By Paul Dill

HEAD COACH

Behind the offensive contributions of middle blocker Rob M. McAndrew '05 and outside hitter Praveen Pamidimukkala '08, the MIT Men's Varsity Volleyball team opened the 2005 season with victories over conference foes Emmanuel and Mount Ida.

Wednesday's opener against cross-town rival Emmanuel was a repeat of last season's first match, which saw the Engineers fall in four games.

This time around, however, the tone of the match was set on the first point, on which McAndrew and outside hitter Michelangelo Raimondi '06 teamed up for a powerful double block against the Emmanuel attack. Game one finished with the Engineers claiming a 30-23 victory, with McAndrew already having scored 5 of his match-high 33.5 points on blocks. Pamidimukkala paced the offense with five kills on seven swings.

Emmanuel regrouped in the second game to force a seesaw battle in which neither team could sustain momentum or build a lead on the scoreboard. McAndrew and Pamidimukkala continued to drive the offense, combining for 15 of the Engineers' 18 kills in the frame, but MIT was unable to close out the game and fell 31-33.

Discouraged by the possibility that they could be reliving last year's result of taking the opening game only to lose the next three, the Engineers came out flat in the third game, falling behind by more than ten points early but recovering their poise to close the gap to only a 20-30 defeat.

The Engineers, fed by a raucous Rockwell atmosphere, started to build momentum in the fourth game. While neither team could pull away on the scoreboard, the Engineers received the emotional lift they needed when Raimondi brought the crowd to its feet and sealed a place on the highlight film with a devastating solo block of the Emmanuel opposite.

Setter Jordan X. Wan '06 then delivered another major blow to Emmanuel's confidence and joined Raimondi on the highlight reel by closing a long rally with a no-look

dump that dropped untouched.

McAndrew continued to assert his authority at the net in the fourth game with 10 of his 27 kills, but it was the emergence of the Engineers' defense that allowed them to force a deciding fifth game, as middle blocker Robert G. Aspell '06 contributed three blocks and opposite Ryan G. Dean '08 dug out seven Emmanuel attacks before closing out the 30-27 victory with a precise tip to the vacant deep corner of the Emmanuel court.

The final game began exactly as the match had: with a dramatic McAndrew block. Defensively, Matthew Ng '08 picked up six digs, and his classmate Pamidimukkala closed out a 15-12 victory with a kill from the outside. Pamidimukkala finished with 21 kills on just 32 attempts for a stellar 0.563 hitting performance in his MIT debut. Dean and Ng combined for 33 of the Engineers' 56 digs, and Wan ran a tight offensive system, notching 57 assists.

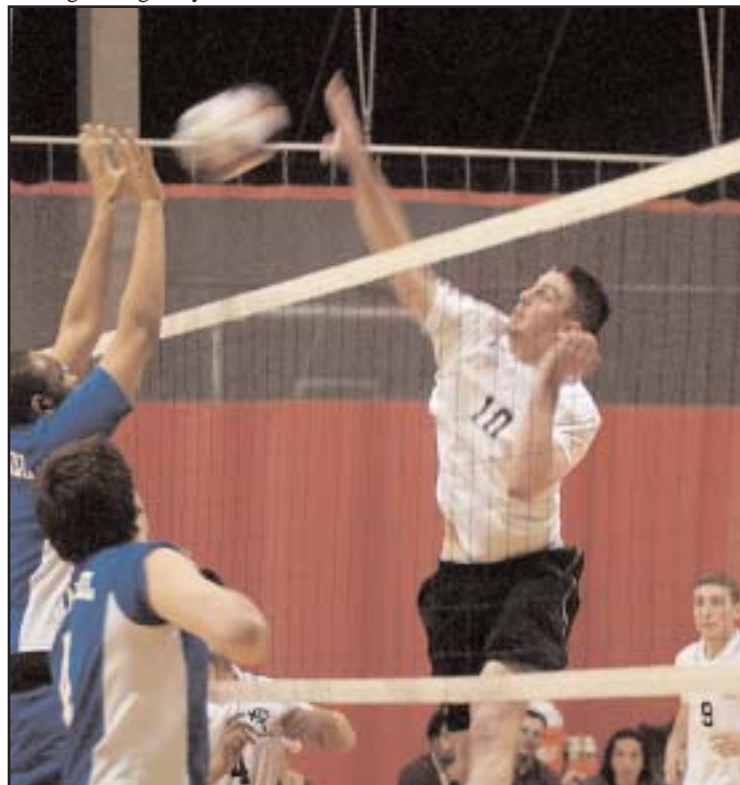
MIT benefited from consistent ball control throughout the match. Dean, Ng, and defensive specialist Jason S. Park '05 did the Engineers' serve receiving and surrendered only eight aces to Emmanuel.

That passing quality continued Friday night at Mount Ida College, where the Engineers allowed only one ace in 49 receptions and cruised to an easy straight-set victory 30-21, 30-18, 30-23.

Dean and Pamidimukkala each unleashed their jump serves to drop four aces on the Mustangs, while McAndrew was the beneficiary of nearly half of Wan's 41 assists, scoring 20 kills on just 36 swings.

Despite Mount Ida's unthreatening offense, Ng was able to register a second double-digit dig performance with 12, two of which led to timely kills by outside hitter Stephen D. Ray '08, who closed both the second and third games with swings from the left side. MIT needed just over an hour to avenge a five-game defeat on their last trip to Mount Ida, completing the reversal of last season's 0-2 start.

The Engineers (2-0, 2-0 NECVA) hope to continue their unbeaten streak this week against conference opponents Elms and Lasell.



Rob McAndrew '05 pounds one of his match-high 27 kills past the Emmanuel block.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

(Right to left) Christopher M. Bruce '08, Christopher Wong '08, Ian H. Driver '05, Kevin J. DiGonva '07 start the 5,000m race. The MIT men's track team hosted Williams College, Westfield State College, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute last Saturday at the Johnson Athletics Center.

## Men's and Women's Hockey



(above) Raffaella L. Wakeman '08 scores MIT's first goal in a hard-fought loss 4-2 against Salve Regina.



(below) MIT moves to defend a Central Connecticut College shooter before a tough loss 3-2.

Photography by Scot Frank

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

## Wednesday, January 26

Varsity Squash vs. Amherst College, Zesiger Center Squash Courts, 4 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling vs. University of Southern Maine and Bridgewater State, du Pont Athletic Center, 6 p.m.  
Varsity Men's Hockey vs. University of New Hampshire, Johnson Ice Rink, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, January 27

Varsity Women's Basketball vs. Springfield College, Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.

## Saturday, January 29

Varsity Rifle Collegiate Sectional, MIT Pistol and Rifle Range, 9 a.m.  
Varsity Women's Basketball vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rockwell Cage, 12 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling vs. American International College, du Pont Athletic Center, 1 p.m.  
Varsity Men's and Women's Swimming vs. Amherst and Connecticut College, Zesiger Center Pool, 1 p.m.  
Varsity Women's Track and Field Tech Track Classic, Johnson Athletic Center, 1 p.m.  
Varsity Men's Basketball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Rockwell Cage, 2 p.m.  
Varsity Squash vs. Fordham, Zesiger Center Squash Courts, 2 p.m.

## Sunday, January 30

Varsity Rifle Collegiate Sectional, MIT Pistol and Rifle Range, 9 a.m.

join@the-tech.mit.edu