

# Massachusetts Primary Today

MIT's  
Oldest and Largest  
Newspaper



## The Weather

Today: Cloudy, showers, 52°F (11°C)  
Tonight: Clearing, 40°F (4°C)  
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 55°F (13°C)  
Details, Page 2

Volume 124, Number 9

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

## Dead Body Tentatively Identified as Mun

By Beckett W. Sterner  
NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

A male body recovered from the Charles River this Saturday has been tentatively identified as Daniel S. Mun '05, a Chi Phi fraternity member who was last seen on Dec. 5.

The identification is based on Mun's MIT ID card, which was found in the body's pocket, said President of the Chi Phi House Corporation James Bueche '62.

In addition, MIT News Director Arthur L. Jones said that "from what the police have said, the general description is that the height and the size [of the body] is consistent" with Mun's height and size.

The official confirmation of the identity of the body awaits the comparison of dental records, said David Procopio, press secretary for the Suffolk County District Attorney's office, which is in charge of the investigation and autopsy.

"We're hoping that the autopsy is going to do a couple of things," he said, such as "allow us to officially identify the deceased" and establish the cause of death.

He said they plan to do the autopsy today.

### Body recovered from Charles

Passersby on the Harvard Bridge reported a body in the water shortly after 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Boston Fire Department firefighters load an inflatable dive boat aboard their truck Saturday night after searching the Charles River near the Boston side of the Harvard Bridge. A body, tentatively identified to be that of MIT student Daniel S. Mun '05, was recovered from the river.

Jonathan R. Moskaitis G, who was present during the recovery effort, said that the body was initially below the ice and a small distance away from the bridge.

By approximately 5 p.m., the

Boston emergency dive team had recovered the body, which was clothed and wearing inline skates, from the river, Moskaitis said. He said that the body appeared to have been underwater for some time.

Dexter W. Ang '05, Mun's former roommate, said that Mun did own a pair of inline skates.

The DA's office is "very actively

Mun, Page 16

## MIT Pays For Grad Insurance

By Kathy Dobson  
STAFF REPORTER

Graduate students supported by research and teaching assistantships will receive a full subsidy for their health insurance cost in the 2004-2005 academic year, Provost Robert A. Brown announced last week.

The subsidy provides graduate students supported by assistantships full health coverage with MIT's individual extended hospital insurance, which costs \$1,440 for the 2003-2004 academic year. This will result in an approximately 8 percent increase in disposable income for most affected students. Students that are not supported by the Institute will see no change in their insurance costs, and families will only see a partial reduction.

Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert said that the insurance subsidy is a result of the work of many groups, including "the entire senior structure of the Institute" and the Graduate Student Council. Both groups were "con-

Insurance, Page 19

## Ringcomm Stands Firm; Rat Remains Unchanged

By Marissa Vogt  
NEWS EDITOR

In a statement on its Web site last Friday, the Class of 2006 Ring Committee announced that they will not be altering the design for the 2006 Brass Rat. The statement was issued in response to the recent controversy surrounding two Greek letters and stars on the ring.

"We appreciate ArtCarved's recent attempts to work with us on possibly making changes to the design, but it is the Ring Committee's final decision not to change the 2006 Brass Rat, regardless of whether or not it is a feasible option," the committee wrote in the statement.

"Changing the ring design even slightly would set a very poor precedent for ring committees of the future," the committee wrote.

The full statement was issued on Friday and posted in the frequently asked questions section of the Web site, <http://web.mit.edu/2006ringcomm/Webpages/FAQs.htm>.

### Only 226 respond to online survey

The ring committee's statement came four days after a group of sophomores launched the web site <http://ring2006.mit.edu> to collect

opinions about the design of the ring. The survey asks students to rate two controversial features of the ring, namely the Greek letters phi and theta beneath the Cambridge skyline and twin stars alleged by some to resemble the insignia of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Michael J. Stanway '06 said that the other creators of the Web site and he met with the ring committee last Friday to discuss the possibility of changing the ring design.

"At this point, it doesn't look like there's anything more that we can do unless we have some huge surge of responses on the web site," Stanway said. "It doesn't look like anything different is going to happen unless there's forty to fifty percent of the class," responding, he said.

As of last night, 226 students have responded to the survey, of which 199 are sophomores, or 20.2 percent of the class.

Stanway said that the ring committee "didn't feel like there was a big enough response" and didn't want the controversy to become "something that separated the class."

Ring, Page 18

### CONCERT REVIEW

## A Taste So Bad, It's Good

Chorallaries Do It Again — Get It? 'Do It.'



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Geoffrey A. Becker '05 and Daniel O. Bates '05 drop their pants in a skit entitled "Bare-Assidy and the No Pants Kid." Bo S. Kim '04 holds a sheet to preserve the remaining shreds of their dignity.

By Jeremy Baskin  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The Nth Annual Concert in Bad Taste  
The Chorallaries of MIT  
10-250  
February 28, 10:59:59 p.m.

It's funny that the Nth Annual Concert in Bad Taste doesn't change names each year, because it all starts to sound the same after a while. I haven't quite figured out yet whether that's a good thing

or not, but I guess because the alternative might be a regular Chorallaries concert, I'll take the dildo and DKE jokes, thanks.

The jokes were good this year, which is a shame because even though the line stretched out of 10-250 all the way to Building 7, there were a few empty seats in 10-250. I bet it wasn't like this back in the day when Bad Taste started at midnight.

For those of you who haven't had the distinct pleasure of attending Bad Taste, I can sum it up for you using the words of my 8.02 recitation leader who was trying to show us how easy Gauss's Law was because you could solve every problem the same way: it unfolds like a Kabuki play. You know the setting and the plot, and even though the characters might be different, the overall experience is rather predictable.

Bad Taste, Page 10

### NEWS

Find out where you can go to vote in the Massachusetts Primary.

Page 16

ASA temporarily rerecognizes *Counterpoint* .. 17

*The Tech* speaks with Professor Maria Zuber .....19

### NEWS

Undergraduate Association and Class Council candidate list.

Page 19

World & Nation ..... 2  
Opinion ..... 4  
Features ..... 7  
Arts ..... 8  
Fun ..... 12

# WORLD & NATION

## U.S. Plans To Put Security Inspectors At Foreign Airports

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Domestic security officials plan to station American inspectors at several foreign airports in Europe, Asia and elsewhere to look for terrorism suspects who may be using fraudulent travel documents, officials said on Monday.

The plan, still preliminary, is seen as one way of avoiding the repeated flight cancellations that have disrupted travel between Europe and the United States in the last two months.

"Had there been a program like this in place, it may well not have been necessary to cancel flights at significant costs to the airlines," Robert C. Bonner, the commissioner of customs and border protection, said in an interview. "We would have had the opportunity to screen passengers who pose a terrorist threat."

Officials at the Department of Homeland Security have begun discussions with some foreign counterparts to determine if they would agree to allow American inspectors at their airports to assist in screening passengers bound for the United States.

## Twenty Arrested In Hong Kong Financial Scandal

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

Investigators have arrested 20 people here in a financial scandal involving allegations of bribery and rigging of share prices by corporate executives, fund managers, a research analyst and a securities broker.

At least one of Europe's largest banks, UBS, has been caught up in the controversy, while anti-corruption investigators here said that employees at three more financial institutions and two publicly traded companies have been arrested. All those arrested have been released on bail.

UBS said it had suspended one of its better-known analysts here, Nicholas Tan, after he was arrested. Mark Panday, a UBS spokesman, said on Monday that the bank had hired both an outside law firm and an outside accounting firm to conduct an independent review of all the work done by the 40 senior and junior analysts and their 20 assistants in the bank's Hong Kong office.

## Supreme Court Will Hear California Prison Segregation Case

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court agreed Monday to hear a challenge to a California prison system policy that segregates inmates by race during their first 60 days of incarceration.

The state defended the policy, and a federal appeals court upheld it, as a sensible way of minimizing interracial violence at reception centers where inmates are housed for 60 days while being screened for long-term placement. One purpose of the screening is to assess a new inmate's potential for violence.

During this period, inmates are assigned to two-person cells according to whether they are black, white, Asian or "other." Within those categories, prison authorities also separate certain groups by national or geographic origin. For example, they do not house Japanese and Chinese inmates together, or Laotians with Vietnamese, or Latinos from Northern and Southern California.

The segregation policy is also used for the first 60 days after an inmate is transferred from one prison to another. In all instances, however, areas of the prison other than the actual cells — the yard, dining hall and work and recreation areas — are not segregated.

# Haitian Rebels Enter Capital While Aristide Criticizes U.S.

By Tim Weiner  
and Lydia Polgreen  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PORT-AU-PRINCE

Armed rebels swept into this capital on Monday and occupied national police headquarters, staking a claim to power as U.S. Marines secured the international airport and the presidential palace.

It was far from clear on Monday who was in charge, although the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Boniface Alexandre, was sworn in Sunday as the leader of a transitional government until elections in 2005. Under Haiti's Constitution, the legislature is supposed to ratify Alexandre's succession, and there is no legislature, owing to the breakdown of the government.

The deposed president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, landed in a temporary exile in the Central African Republic. He said that he was overthrown by the United States, a claim dismissed as "complete nonsense" by the White House.

At the White House on Monday, President Bush convened a meeting of the National Security Council to develop a plan for a multinational peacekeeping force to take over from the Marines within a few months.

France and Canada have pledged to help fill out a multinational force with police functions. The United States is also discussing contributions from Caribbean nations, as well as from Brazil, Chile and Argentina, officials said.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said Monday that an international force would help install a "responsive, functioning, noncorrupt" government.

He also said the armed rebel leaders include "individuals we would not want to see re-enter civil society in Haiti because of their past records, and this is something we will have to work through."

The rebels, followed by throngs of cheering, armed supporters, also occupied the former headquarters of the Haitian army, vowing to revive the military, a force known for brutality. Several of the armed rebels were affiliated with the Haitian military or with armed gangs that have terrorized Haiti.

A wave of several thousand dancing, cheering people following the rebel leaders rounded Port-au-Prince's main boulevard to the palace minutes after the rebels occupied police headquarters.

At least four men identified by

witnesses as supporters of the deposed president were found shot dead on the edge of town, three of them bound at the wrists.

Haiti's army overthrew Aristide in 1991 and ran a violent junta until 1994. U.S. armed forces reinstated the president, who then disbanded the Haitian military.

Now that he is gone, the army may be back. In the rebels' ranks at the old army headquarters was Paul Arcelin, 60, who identified himself as a former ambassador to the Dominican Republic and "an adviser to the Haitian army."

"This is our headquarters," he said. "The army has come back. We don't need peacekeepers."

Powell told CNN: "We have ways of talking to the various rebel leaders. And I am pleased that at least so far they said they are not interested in violence any more, and they want to put down their arms."

They did not put down their guns on Monday.

Two rebel leaders, Louis-Jodel Chamblain, a former death-squad member and convicted assassin, and Guy Philippe, a former police chief, did thank the United States for moving to secure Haiti after the fall of Aristide.

# America Says it Will Approve Temporary Iraqi Constitution

By Dexter Filkins  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

American officials said Monday they would approve a temporary Iraqi constitution hammered out during an overnight session early Monday morning, all but ensuring that the document would serve as the framework for a new Iraqi state.

But the celebratory mood was muted by the knowledge that Iraqi leaders had put off for later many of the most intractable issues. The negotiators struck several important compromises, including those on women's rights and the role of Islam. But they deferred issues like the disarming of private militias, the composition of the interim government that will take charge on June

30, and a mechanism for elections.

"This is a major achievement, only a day late, which I think is terrific," Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said during an appearance on the CBS "Early Show," referring to the Feb. 28 deadline.

The relief among the Americans was matched by the excitement that swept Iraq's government Monday afternoon.

"This is a great day in the history of Iraq, an unforgettable day," said Adnan Pachachi, the 80-year-old former foreign minister who began his diplomatic career when Iraq was ruled by a king. "It is a unique day perhaps in the history of the whole region."

The interim constitution, which is likely to remain in force until the end

of 2005, grants broad protections for individuals within a federal system designed to hold the country's fractious parts together. The Iraqi leaders said they would gather to sign the new constitution on Wednesday, following the Shiite holiday of Ashoura, which began in Karbala with a procession on Monday.

The 25 members of the Iraqi Governing Council, appointed by the Americans last summer, had tried at different times to resolve the outstanding issues but found that the conflicts they created had threatened to scuttle the rest of the constitution.

The agreement struck on Monday grants broad autonomy to the Kurdish region in northern Iraq, which has been largely governing itself since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

## WEATHER

### A Slow March

By Robert Lindsay Korty  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

In the cold darkness of January, the first promises of a warmer season emerge. The sun sets a few minutes later than it did the day before, and the amount of solar radiation reaching each northern latitude begins to creep higher. Before the full fury of winter has matured, its end has begun.

There is a slow march toward spring, and March is perhaps the singular month during which winter bleeds into the new season. Sure there are few flowers growing in Boston, and it is not always that warm, but the sun is brighter, higher, and stronger. Yesterday, a sea breeze developed, a common occurrence on the New England coast during spring.

As temperatures warm over the land, convection transports the heat vertically and the wind shifts off of the ocean to replace the rising air. When this happens, temperatures plummet to levels near the ocean temperature, which is still cold during the spring months owing to the high heat capacity of water.

A storm over the Midwest will push east today, bringing clouds and occasional showers. Temperatures will remain above normal for the first week of March. Winter is not completely over, though.

#### Extended Forecast

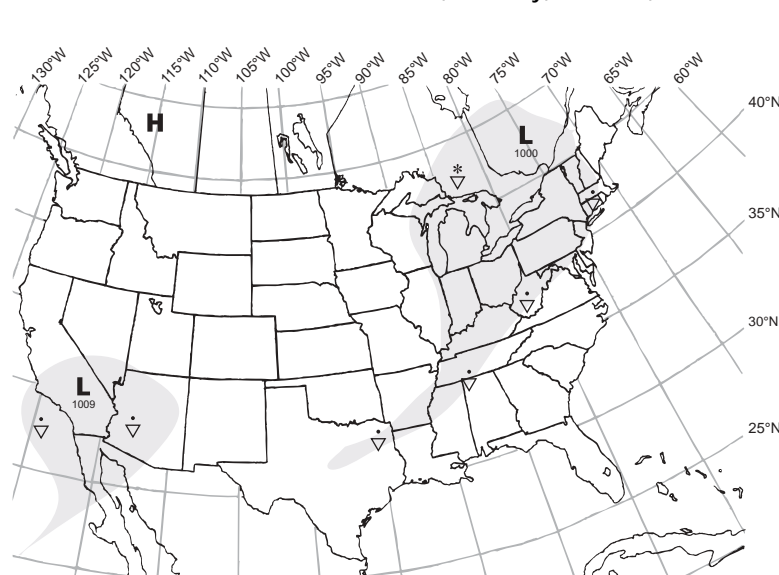
**Today:** Cloudy with occasional showers. High 52°F (11°C).

**Tonight:** Clearing late. Low 40°F (4°C).

**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy. High near 55°F (13°C).

**Thursday:** Becoming cloudy, rain possible late. High 49°F (9°C), low 32°F (0°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, March 2, 2004



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Low-Profile Technocrat Chosen As New Russian Prime Minister

By Seth Mydans  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

President Vladimir V. Putin surprised Russia on Monday by naming a low-profile technocrat as prime minister, a position that answers directly to the president.

The appointee, Mikhail Y. Fradkov, 53, has held a number of mostly economic portfolios including chief of the tax police and was most recently Russia's representative to the European Union.

Experts described him as a competent nonpolitical figure acceptable both to the hard-line wing and to the liberal economic wing of Putin's administration — a "liberal hawk," in the words of one commentator.

In appointing him, Putin ended a guessing game that had begun to overshadow a predictable presidential election two weeks from now that is seen as a sure thing for Putin.

Already, the big political question is the succession in 2008, when Putin cannot run again. After he fired the incumbent prime minister, Mikhail

M. Kasyanov, last Tuesday, political commentators began focusing on his replacement as a possible front-runner four years from now.

The closest anyone came on Monday to foreseeing that possibility for Fradkov was a commentator who said, "Anything is possible."

Aleksei Moiseyef, an economist at the Renaissance Capital investment house, said, "Without a doubt, he is clearly a bureaucrat without any political ambition." In appointing Fradkov, he said, Putin avoided creating an alternative center of power or a rival for the political spotlight.

Fradkov has been associated, however, with Sergei B. Ivanov, the defense minister and a close ally of Putin whose name remains near the top of most lists of potential future presidents.

In effect, said Boris Makarenko, an analyst with the Political Technologies Center, Fradkov has been selected as a political kamikaze to do the government's dirty work, to take the blame and, sooner or later, to crash and burn.

In itself, Fradkov's appointment does not send any strong signal about the president's future policies. These may become clearer once Putin begins his second term. Some commentators view his first term as a period of consolidation after a time of increasing disorder under his predecessor, Boris N. Yeltsin.

In announcing the appointment, Putin said he had looked for "a highly professional person, organized, having strong work experience in varied branches of state activity." He added that Fradkov would deal strongly with corruption because he "knows the security structures since he was the deputy secretary of the Security Council and headed the tax police."

In addition, Fradkov, who speaks English and Spanish, was an economic adviser in the Soviet Embassy in India. In the early 1990s, he was a member of Russia's delegation to the United Nations and headed the delegation to the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade.

# Venezuelan Plan to Recall Chavez Put on Hold by Election Officials

By Juan Forero  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

A campaign by opposition groups for a recall referendum to try to oust President Hugo Chavez appeared on the brink of collapse on Monday.

Opposition leaders, expecting election officials to disqualify enough of the 3.4 million signatures they have collected for a recall to keep the measure off the ballot, accused Chavez of unfairly influencing the process.

Protesters battled National Guard troops across the country in anti-government demonstrations that began Friday and have gained momentum.

On Monday, young men threw bottles at government troops and burned tires to block off streets. The country's privately owned television stations, which have largely sided with the opposition against the left-leaning president, beamed pictures of chaos throughout the day.

National Guard troops have fought back with tear gas and armored vehicles. Two people have died since Friday and several dozen have been hurt, several of them critically.

"Why are the people in the street?" asked Henry Ramos, leader

of the Democratic Action Party and an opponent of Chavez. "Because they see that the government is trying to steal their democratic rights."

Government officials accused the opposition, including municipal officials in Caracas, of fomenting violence and inflating the troubles to destabilize the country.

"There are politicians with government duties who appear to be functioning as leaders of urban guerrillas because they are going against the peace and security," Gen. Jorge Luis Garcia Carneiro, the defense minister, told the government's Venpres news agency.

The opposition has tried to dislodge Chavez, a populist who won office in 1998, through a short-lived coup in 2002 and four big national strikes. Nothing has worked, and since last year the broad-based opposition movement has worked for a referendum.

But on Monday, the probability of a vote seemed slim as the five-member National Electoral Council disputed with the Carter Center, which is based in Atlanta, over whether the American center would continue its role as a mediator here.

The president of the council, Francisco Carrasquero, held a news conference to announce that the

Carter Center was leaving the country. Jennifer McCoy, the center's representative, said she planned to stay.

"I want to make it clear that the Carter Center mission remains in Venezuela," she told reporters.

Even so, the opposition has had little luck in trying to prod the council into altering a preliminary decision that hundreds of thousands of signatures were flawed.

Under the constitutional provision for a recall vote, 2.4 million valid signatures are required to place the measure on the ballot. The opposition collected 3.4 million signatures. (Venezuela's population is 25 million.)

But election officials were expected to invalidate 400,000 and to require additional verification of a million. That would bring the number of validated signatures below the required total.

The council has said that a million signatures could go through a five-day "repair period," starting on March 18, in which citizens could confirm that they had signed. But diplomats monitoring the signature gathering and opposition leaders said the process is so challenging technically that it could end any chance of a referendum.

# Edwards Focuses on Crucial States While Kerry Sets His Sights on Bush

By David M. Halbfinger  
and Randal C. Archibald  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATLANTA

Sens. John Kerry and John Edwards made a last push through the crucial states of Ohio and Georgia on Monday as Edwards worked to pull out a victory on Super Tuesday to keep his campaign alive and Kerry tried for a clean sweep of the 10 states in contention.

In Ohio, Edwards bounded from Toledo to Dayton and Cleveland before flying to Macon, Ga., focusing on two states where his advisers believe he has the strongest chance of winning. But unlike in earlier contests in which Edwards came on strong at the end, the crowds on Monday were meager, the polls discouraging and the endorsements from major newspapers missing.

Edwards was also ignored by his rival on the eve of what the Kerry campaign hopes will be his elimination from the race. Kerry addressed bigger, noisier crowds as if the nom-

ination were already his, promising nearly 1,000 people in Columbus, Ohio, a "campaign of truth" against President Bush.

He said he would prove to voters that he could find money for his costly proposals for health care, education and job creation.

"This isn't going to be some kind of we're-like-them, they're-like-us, wishy-washy, mealy-mouthed, we-can't-tell-the-difference deal," he said, borrowing a page from Howard Dean. "This is going to be something where we're giving America a real choice. Our choice is, we're going to roll back George Bush's tax cut for the wealthiest Americans and invest in education and health care."

By nightfall, Kerry was in Atlanta, where he won the endorsement of Mayor Shirley Franklin, who has strong support in the suburbs as well as in the city. Earlier in Baltimore, Kerry appealed directly to general-election voters on the issue of national security.

"I don't think we Democrats and

independents and moderate, thoughtful Republicans ought to shy away for a moment from standing up in front of America, and making it clear that there is a better way to make America safe than this president has chosen," he said at Morgan State University. "This president has in fact created terrorists where they didn't exist."

Kerry told some 600 people that Bush could use a visit to the campus, too. "If he came here, I believe, I think he could straighten out his fuzzy math," Kerry said, "because the numbers don't add up."

"He's not multiplying the jobs," Kerry continued. "He's trying to divide America. And so, I think our solution — we ought to subtract George Bush from the political equation of the United States."

At every stop, Kerry implored his listeners to vote with a sense of urgency. "It's not about words," he said in Columbus. "It's not about parties. It's about ideas. It's about life itself."

# Head of Enron Task Force Decides To Step Down

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Just weeks after securing an indictment against the former chief executive of Enron, the Justice Department task force investigating the collapse of the company is reshaping itself.

Leslie R. Caldwell, who has headed the task force since it was formed, will step down this week to begin pursuing a job in the private sector, Justice Department officials said Monday. Her longtime deputy, Andrew Weissmann, will oversee the task force.

Other prominent prosecutors on the task force, including Samuel Buell, who was directly involved in the investigation of the former chief executive, Jeffrey K. Skilling, are also moving on.

Changes in the Enron task force were widely expected as its primary responsibilities shifted from investigating potential crimes to trying to prove criminal charges in court. While investigations into the collapse are continuing, with some former Enron executives reporting increased activity by government officials in recent weeks, the prosecutors are preparing for multiple criminal trials involving charges related to the collapse.

To assist in that effort, the task force over the last nine months has recruited an array of prosecutors both to try the cases already brought and to continue the investigation. The new prosecutors have held senior positions in U.S. attorney's offices across the country.

In an interview on Monday, Caldwell said that with so many of the major investigations now moving toward trial, it seemed an appropriate time for her to depart. "It's the right time to leave," she said. "When I signed on, it was never my intention to stay for the duration of the entire case."

# Trial Proceeds For Defendant In Oklahoma City Bombing

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MCALESTER, OKLA.

Sweeping aside defense claims of official misconduct, a state judge on Monday opened the trial of Terry Lynn Nichols in the deaths of 160 people killed in the Oklahoma City bombing of April 19, 1995.

But in ruling that jury selection could proceed, the judge, Steven Taylor of District Court, warned that any improper withholding of information by state or federal prosecutors would void the case. "There will not be a mistrial," Taylor said. "There will be a dismissal, period."

Taylor also voiced some impatience with the FBI, which is reviewing its handling of certain leads in the case. The defense claims these point to white-supremacist gang members as possible accomplices of Timothy J. McVeigh, who was executed in 2001 for blowing up the Alfred P. Murrah Building with a 4,000-pound truck bomb.

But the judge said, "It would be irresponsible for this court to shut down this trial today based on speculation and guesswork what the FBI can come up with."

Nichols is already serving life without parole on a 1997 federal conviction for assisting McVeigh in the attack, laid to anti-government hatred. An associate, Michael Fortier, who became a government witness, is serving 12 years for concealing the plot.

# Another Asian Tiger Threatens U.S. Economic Dominance

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GUANGZHOU, CHINA

The welcome that China is offering to multinational companies and foreign investment has left many Western business executives, so critical of a closed Japan a decade or so ago, enthusiastically embracing China, its cheap work force and its huge markets.

But that same openness — combined with China's vast population of 1.3 billion and military muscle — makes it an even greater long-term economic challenge to the United States than Japan seemed to be in the 1980s, according to a growing number of executives, economists and officials.

While China's economy is still about one-third the size of Japan's, the potential size of its market has made it very hard for companies to say no when Beijing officials demand that they build factories, transfer the latest technology or adopt Chinese technical standards.

Japan has effectively run out of low-wage workers for its industries, and quickly brought much of its economy up to and in some cases beyond Western technological standards. China still has vast reserves of cheap labor in inland areas and many backward industries that can grow swiftly as they copy Western and Japanese methods.

# Nuclear Waste In Space

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Q. Rather than put the earth's environment at risk, why not periodically shoot small loads of the waste from atomic power plants into space?

A. While the idea of launching such waste into orbit or into deep space was given serious consideration by some government and private scientists early in the space program, it was not deemed practical.

A federal law passed in 1982 mandates disposing of dangerous American nuclear wastes in deep geological storage areas on earth, rather than placed in orbit, fired at the sun or sent into deep space.

One earlier idea was to use the space shuttle as a regular garbage disposal vehicle, but shuttle flights never became regular enough or frequent enough. Another potential problem was the catastrophic loss of a dangerous nuclear cargo through a spacecraft failure. In the early 1980s, hardened waste containers built to withstand re-entry if a vehicle failed before entering orbit were tested.

Even with projected frequent shuttle flights, the expense of space disposal would probably have been too high for any but the most dangerous of wastes, which would have had to be separated from other less unstable materials. Such reprocessing is now illegal.

# OPINION



**Chairman**  
Hangyul Chung '05

**Editor in Chief**  
Brian Loux '04

**Business Manager**  
Roy K. Esaki '04

**Managing Editor**  
David Carpenter '05

**NEWS STAFF**

**News and Features Director:** Beckett W. Sterner '06; **News Editors:** Kathy Lin '06, Marissa Vogt '06, Jenny Zhang '06; **Associate Editors:** Waseem S. Daher '07, Gireeja V. Ranade '07, Julián E. Villarreal '07; **Staff:** Kathy Dobson G, Jeffrey Greenbaum '04, Eun J. Lee '04, Michael E. Rolish '04, Jay K. Cameron '05, Christine Fry '05, Sam Hwang '05, Issel Anne L. Lim '05, Jessica A. Zaman '05, Brian C. Keegan '06, Lauren E. LeBon '06, Jennifer Wong '06, Ray C. He '07, Tongyan Lin '07; **Meteorologists:** Samantha L. H. Hess G, Robert Lindsay Korty G, Greg Lawson G, Nikki Privé G, William Ramstrom G, Michael J. Ring G.

**PRODUCTION STAFF**

**Editors:** Andrew Mamo '04, Sie Hendrata Dharmawan '05, Tiffany Dohzen '06; **Associate Editor:** Nicholas R. Hoff '05; **Staff:** Joel C. Corbo '04, Joy Forsythe '04, Kevin Chen '05, Albert Leung '06, Jolinta Lin '06, Jonathan Reinharth '06, Jennifer Huang '07, Yaser M. Khan '07, Y. Grace Lin '07, Sylvia Yang '07.

**OPINION STAFF**

**Editor:** Vivek Rao '05; **Columnist:** Andrew C. Thomas '04; **Staff:** Basil Enwegbara SM '01, Gretchen K. Aleks '04, Ken Nesmith '04, Atif Z. Qadir '04, W. Victoria Lee '06, Daniel Barclay '07, Ruth Miller '07, Chen Zhao '07.

**SPORTS STAFF**

**Editor:** Phil Janowicz '05, Brian Chase '06; **Staff:** Yong-yi Zhu '06.

**ARTS STAFF**

**Editors:** Christine R. Fry '05, Amy Lee '06; **Associate Editor:** Kevin G. Der '06; **Staff:** Bogdan Fedeles G, Ruby Lam G, Sonja Sharpe G, Fred Choi '02, Chikako Sassa '02, Jed Horne '04, Pey-Hua Hwang '04, Josiah Q. Seale '04, Petar Simich '04.

**PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF**

**Editors:** Peter R. Russo '02, Brian Hemond '04, Jina Kim '06; **Associate Editors:** Daniel Bersak '02, Jonathan T. Wang '05; **Staff:** Marcus Dahlem G, Wendy Gu G, Stanley Hu '00, Scott Johnston '03, Miguel A. Calles '04, Jimmy Cheung '04, Ben Gallup '04, Dmitry Portnyagin '04, Hassen Abdu '06, Matt D. Brown '06, John M. Cloutier '06, Grant Jordan '06, Stephanie Lee '06, Edward Platt '06, Omoleye Roberts '06, Rene Chen '07.

**FEATURES STAFF**

**Editor:** Akshay Patil '04; **Associate Editors:** Tiffany Kosolcharoen '06; **Columnists:** Bruce Wu G, Kailas Narendran '01, Ian Ybarra '04, Danchai Mekadenaumporn '05, Alex Nelson '06; **Cartoonists:** Jason Burns G, Jumaane Jeffries '02, Sergei R. Guma '04, Sean Liu '04, Jennifer Peng '05, Nancy Phan '05, Qian Wang '05.

**BUSINESS STAFF**

**Operations Manager:** Lauren W. Leung '07; **Staff:** Jyoti R. Tibrewala '04, Lynn K. Kamimoto '05, William Li '06, Victoria Fan '06, Donald H. Wong '07, Jennifer Y. Wong '07.

**TECHNOLOGY STAFF**

**Staff:** Frank Dabek G, Roshan Baliga '03, Daniel Leeds '05, Lisa Wray '07.

**EDITORS AT LARGE**

**Senior Editors:** Satwiksai Seshasai G, Keith J. Winstein G, Jennifer Krishnan '04; **Contributing Editor:** Jeremy Baskin '04, Devdoot Majumdar '04.

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Peter Peckarsky '72, Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan Richmond PhD '91, Saul Blumenthal '98, Joseph Dieckhans '00, Ryan Ochylski '01, Rima Arnaout '02, Eric J. Cholankeri '02, Ian Lai '02, B. D. Colen.

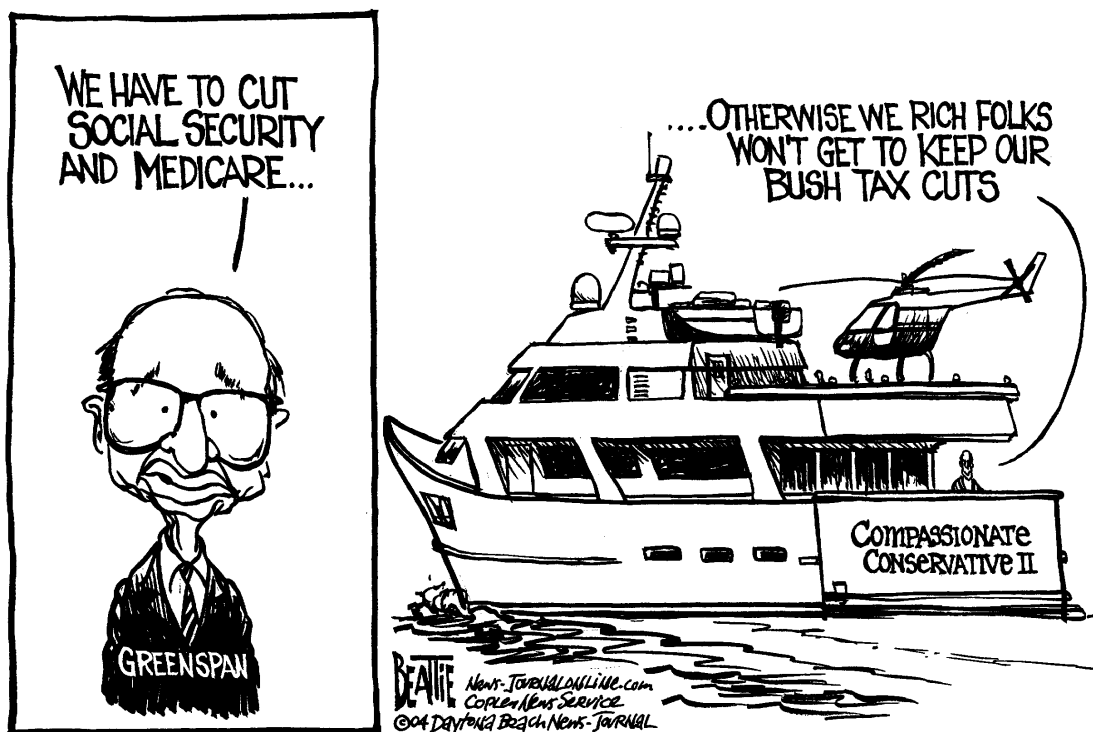
**OMBUDSMAN**

John A. Hawkinson.

**PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE**

**Editors:** Joel C. Corbo '04, Sie Hendrata Dharmawan '05; **Staff:** No Help '0X.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9077) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$4500 per year (Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Permit No. 1. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial: (617) 258-8329, business: (617) 258-8226, facsimile: Advertising, subscription, and reprinting rates available. Estate contents © 2004 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.



## Letter To The Editor

*To Our Readers: We have received a number of inquiries and comments about "What a Difference a Year Makes," a true account of a woman who was raped on campus. One recurring, unaddressed question is why no record of this incident exists in MIT Police records. While the incident did occur on campus approximately one year ago, the police who responded to the call were Cambridge Police officers, not the MIT Police. The report of the incident was filed at an off-campus hospital and no official report was made by the victim with MIT. These facts were not made clear in the original account and we hope that this will clear up any confusion.*

Christine R. Fry  
Arts Editor

### Don't Blame Me, I Voted for Gore

Andrew Thomas, in his column "Don't Blame Me, I Voted for Kodos" [Feb. 27],

claims that it is "laughable" that Ralph Nader was responsible for Al Gore's defeat in 2000. While he certainly wasn't singularly responsible, he clearly had a large role in the loss.

The Oxford English Dictionary has this definition for a spoiler: "One who mars the chance of victory for an opponent, while not being a potential winner." That fits Ralph Nader perfectly — he knows he has no chance of winning and that he is stealing votes from the Democratic candidate. We could argue endlessly about how much of an effect he has had, and will have, but that doesn't change the fact that he is helping the Republicans and hurting the Democrats. With the prospect of another four years of George W. Bush at the helm, this time without the accountability of a re-election, I don't think we can afford to have a spoiler trying to steal votes from the Democratic nominee.

Dave Lahr G

## Errata

An article on Friday, Feb. 27 ["UA Elections Begin With Some Positions Going Uncontested"] incorrectly stated the dates of online balloting for UA and Class Council Elections. It will take place from March 8 to 11, not March 8 to 13. In addition, Solomon M. Bisker is a member of the class of 2006, not the class of 2005.

A column on Tuesday, Feb. 17 ["How to Bring Peaceful Coexistence Back to the Middle East"] incorrectly described the listing of "nationality" on Israeli ID cards. Since April 2002, the nationality section of all newly issued IDs in the country has been left blank.

## Opinion Policy

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

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

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

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

*The Tech's* Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at [ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu), serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

## To Reach Us

*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to [general@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:general@the-tech.mit.edu), and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu). Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

# Questioning Ring Committee Composition

Jay S. Gill

While the article about the 2006 Brass Rat controversy made many people aware of the situation ["Students Request Opinions on Ring," Feb. 27], I want to elucidate some of the complaints our class has, and to respond to the letter that our Ring Committee has put on its web site.

Above all else, I cannot fathom why the committee possibly thought I would want any Greek letters on my class ring. With no disrespect to the fraternities at MIT, I don't find myself living in one, and I don't want to explain to people for the rest of my life why I'm wearing an apparent fraternity name on my finger. Understandably, the eight Greek-affiliated members on the ten-person Ring Committee may not have realized at the time how ludicrous this is, but their lack of response to the uproar highlights the self-absorbed nature of the whole process.

This is not the rant of a few bored individuals — as of Sunday afternoon, 20 percent of the class of 2006 has declared an equally strong objection. Those 200 sophomores thought strongly enough about this

issue to add their thoughts to an online poll/petition at <http://ring2006.mit.edu>, and the feedback is overwhelmingly negative.

In response, the committee has nobly exercised its right to ignore, reveling in their complete lack of accountability. In a statement posted online, the committee wrote, "No class should believe that Ring Premiere is a time to submit ideas for the Brass Rat...and the full responsibility of designing the ring was given to a committee." The class of 2006 is left with little recourse but to ponder the wisdom of a system in which we can give no feedback. Yes, the responsibility of designing the ring was given to a committee. Do you remember choosing these people? Most likely not, unless you're one of the six Class Council members that have a say in the matter. The committee was entrusted with the responsibility of designing an appropriate ring for our class, and even though 190 of 217 respondents thus far say it has failed, the committee declines to honor that responsibility: "It is the Ring Committee's final decision not to change the 2006 Brass Rat, regardless of whether or not it is a feasible option."

There is a problem more fundamental

than a few Greek letters: the composition of the committee itself. I know for certain that my own dorm, among many others, is wholly unrepresented. For the half of the class that lives in these dorms, the Ring Premiere is the first opportunity we have to even see the ring, eliminating any influence we may have had on the process. While this is all well and good for the Ring Committee, who can gleefully put their own favorite symbols all over the Brass Rat, knowing that they have carte blanche on the design, it is rather obviously not the formula for a ring that represents the class.

So the question remains, why is the entire Ring process put in the hands of ten people whose sole qualification is the favor of the Class Council? Why not at least ensure some measure of validity to the process by, for example, composing the Ring Committee of representatives from each dorm and a proportional number from the ILGs? Or why not unveil the design earlier, allowing at least one round of feedback? It seems the either of these options might lead to a Ring Committee that spends less time designing narcissistic Flash animations for its Web site, and more time designing a rat that doesn't offend a large portion of the class.

Until that happens, all we can do is cover up this travesty in the best way possible:

"Why you have a Phi and Theta on your ring?"

"Oh, I'm a big fan of spherical coordinates..."

Jay S. Gill is a member of the class of 2006.

*Why not at least ensure some measure of validity to the process by, for example, composing the Ring Committee of representatives from each dorm, and a proportional number from the ILGs?*

# Disputing Claims About The Middle East

Isaac Moses and Jake Solomon

The column "How to Bring Peaceful Coexistence Back to the Middle East" [Feb. 17], made several misleading claims against Israel. We would like to present a well-documented refutation of a few of the most important of these claims.

According to the author of that column, in Israel, "'National lands' are to be sold, rented, leased, or worked on by Jews only, and these lands make up 92 percent of Israel."

This blatantly contradicts established fact, as regards both Israeli law and common practice. For example, about one-half of all land Israeli-Arabs farm they lease from the Israel Land Administration (ILA), the Israeli government body that administers state owned lands (David Kretzmer, *Legal Status of the Arabs in Israel*). At times, the ILA has even enacted affirmative action in favor of Israeli-Arabs. For example, in "Avitan v. Israel Land Administration" (HC 528/88), the Israeli High Court upheld ILA discrimination against Israeli-Jewish citizen Eliezer Avitan as affirmative action for Bedouin citizens. The ILA had rejected Avitan's application to lease land in a Bedouin community on the highly subsidized terms the ILA offered Bedouins in that community.

A careful investigation of the cited source for this falsehood, Ralph Schoenman's *Hidden History of Zionism*, reveals that Schoenman never directly states the claim of the citation, though he implies it, and his sources certainly do not support it. Following is a detailed analysis of the sources:

As basic background information, the Israeli government owns 79.5 percent of the total land in Israel, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) owns 14 percent, and private Arab and Jewish owners roughly share the remaining 6.5 percent evenly (Israel's Government Press Office of Israel, as of 1997). The Jewish National Fund is a private Jewish charitable organization dedicated to helping settle Jews in Israel.

The full text of "Basic Law: Israel Lands," excepting a few technical comments, reads, "The ownership of Israel lands, being the lands in Israel of the State, the Development Authority or the Keren Kayemet Le-Israel [i.e. the JNF], shall not be transferred either by sale or in any other

manner." That is, the lands mentioned may be sold neither to Jew, as verified by personal experience, nor Arab. Rather, the ILA, in accordance with the law, leases state-owned land to Arab and Jew alike, as illustrated above. The ILA also administers JNF-owned land, but, following the accepted interpretation of the JNF charter, at least in theory, it may lease this land only to Jews. However, in practice, the ILA also leases JNF land to Arabs by means of a legal instrument (Kretzmer, *Legal Status of Arabs in Israel*).

Schoenman quotes a JNF lease to illustrate the standard interpretation of the JNF charter. In close proximity, he cites several secondary sources which attest in general terms to the equivalence in Israeli law of state-owned land and JNF land. Indeed, the Basic Law above does equate the two on a certain level. However, the juxtaposition of these two facts leads the reader to believe that that Israeli law extends the JNF charter to all ILA administered land, hence falsely incriminating Israel.

The column blames only the Jewish forces for the problem of the Palestinian refugees. Even taking the perspective of the extreme political left, as represented by Benny Morris, a great many Palestinians left Israel of their own free will. Indeed, according to Morris, about 75,000 upper and middle-class Arabs fled between December 1947 and March 1948 due to fear of the unrest characterized by sporadic reciprocal violence between Jews and Arabs, fear of domination by the Arab leader Hussein, and violence by Arab irregulars (Morris, "Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999"): "In some areas Arab commanders ordered the villagers to evacuate to clear the ground for military purposes or to prevent surrender."

Furthermore, Arab propagandists contributed significantly to the flight of the Arabs. In the BBC report, "Israel and the Arabs: The 50 Year Conflict," Hazam Nusseibi, who worked for the Palestine Broadcasting Service in 1948, admitted to being told by Hussein Khalidi, a Palestinian Arab leader, to falsify reports of atrocities committed by the Jews. Abu Mahmoud, a Deir Yassin resident in 1948, told Khalidi, "There was no rape." Khalidi replied, "We have to say this so that Arab armies will come to liberate Palestine from the Jews." Nusseibi continued, "This was our biggest mistake.

We did not realize how our people would react. As soon as they heard that women had been raped at Deir Yassin, Palestinians fled in terror."

The column further claims that the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the Palestinian right of return. In fact, the U.N. Declaration states, "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country." As one might guess from the emphasis on "the right to leave," historically, this clause was aimed at countries which effectively imprisoned certain minorities, such as the Jews in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The "right to return" was only added by the sponsor at the last minute to further strengthen the clause (Jose Ingles, "Study of Discrimination in Respect of the Right of Everyone to Leave Any Country, Including His Own, and to Return to His Country").

Furthermore, many historical examples illustrate how population exchange has assisted conflict resolution. Millions of refugees were permanently resettled following the conclusion of the Turkish War of Independence in 1923, World War II, and the division of British India into present-day India and Pakistan. In all cases, immovable property left behind was seized by the respective governments (Eyal Benvenisti and Eyal Zamir, "Private Claims to Property Rights in the Future Israeli-Palestinian Settlement").

Finally, the "back" in the column's title refers to a "long tradition of religious tolerance and coexistence that characterized Palestine before Zionism." In fact, for hundreds of years before the advent of modern Zionism in the late 1800s, Palestinian Jews and Christians suffered massive religious persecution under the ruling Ottoman Empire. Joan Peters collected extensive documentation of this trend (*From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict Over Palestine*). For example, in 1660, the Jewish community of Safed was "massacred," leaving only one survivor. After it had had a chance to rebuild itself, that Jewish Quarter was again "completely sacked by the Turks" in 1799 (John L. Burckhardt, *Travels in Syria and the Holy Land*). This was not a period of "tolerance and coexistence."

Isaac Moses is a graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Jake Solomon is a graduate student in the Department of Mathematics.

# Unhelpful Boundaries In Science

J. Helen Tang

What exactly are the global realities of today? While I agree with Basil Enwegbara that we should empower American children to suc-

*Letter to the Editor*

ceed and that America should keep ahead of the rest of the world ["Remaking America for New Global

Realities," Feb. 24], I am disturbed to read that "history has taught us that no nation ever survives by placing its hope on foreigners." Although the historical evidence Enwegbara supplies includes legitimate examples of military "self-defeat" due to foreigners, I am disappointed to hear that analogy being used to describe America's situation. After all, America is a land of immigrants, not "foreigners."

I hope that the interpretation to follow is not a failure on my part to understand but a way to let my opinions be known. Foremost, the underlying sentiment in saying that "no nation ever survives by placing its hope on foreigners" resounds with another silent voice that I have heard now and then — foreign scientists and engineers (including those who are simply foreign-born) are "threats" to the United States, or maybe just added competition. Enwegbara's observations hint that the visibility of foreign scientists in America's universities highlights America's inability to fill those positions with its own citizens. But, are they not the very people who are educating American citizens?

In a world without clear boundaries, when world travel and communication are everyday affairs, I am quite concerned about the definite dichotomy between Asian and American that is setup in the Enwegbara's article. This dichotomy is in addition to the split between foreigners and citizens. I do not want say too much on this as resentment may be roused. I just do not understand how the new wave (since the mid-1980s) of foreign scientists and engineers sometimes does not receive the same respect and regard as the wave of scientist emigrants from Europe between the two world wars. Why should they be seen as competitors and not simply future citizens trying to start a new life in a new world? Are not the "foreigners" America's newest immigrants who want to build America's future and become a part of that bright future?

This problem is far more acute for those from Asian countries, so I naturally thought about "competitors" in relation to the administration's old way of calling China a "strategic competitor." I cannot help but notice the bias in Enwegbara's arguments that originates from nationality differences as the most visible portion of today's foreign scientists and engineers are of Asian descent.

I truly believe in maintaining America's world leadership through the training of its citizens and by paying special attention to its disadvantaged citizens — the minorities and the impoverished, but we should not be intolerant of the scientists and engineers who come to this country to study and work. The international nature of America's scientific force has generated synergy unmatched by any other nation. Collaborative work among people of many backgrounds is a part of the American spirit and should be embraced.

America is a country built by immigrants and for immigrants. I feel that foreign scientists and engineers deserve as much right as the disadvantaged to become successful in this country. They do not deserve fewer opportunities just because they are at the head of the game. After all, in the aggregate, we best serve our nation by attracting the best minds from other countries and creating a friendly environment for them to stay permanently while improving our current education system and giving every student the tools to excel.

Because I know of many "foreigners" who do come to this country to study, work, or start a family, I find unacceptable the way that the foreign scientists and engineers are discussed in the article. I know, too, that particularly concerning Asian scientists and engineers, the "foreign competitors" view is not held by one person but by many others, if not here, in other parts of the country. I hope that America is not divisive and exclusionary, and that the people supporting equality of opportunity for the disadvantaged do not alienate future citizens. After all, America once was and is still a land of opportunity and immigration.

J. Helen Tang is a member of the class of 2005.

**Every knot was once straight rope.**

## The Ombudsman

The Tech *Brushes with Anonymity; More Care Needed*

John A. Hawkinson

Anonymity can be a powerful tool and a double-edged sword. Paradoxically, anonymity both allows the truth to get out where it otherwise might not and also risks the propagation of untruths, because there is no fear of retribution.

**Anonymous rape piece – was it true?**

The arts department ran “What a Difference a Year Makes: An Account of One Woman’s Rape and Assault at MIT” [Feb. 24], by “Anonymous.” I thought it was a very powerful piece that sent a strong message — a message possibly tempered by its anonymity.

In journalism, there are some expectations about anonymity. The identity of the anonymous person is known to someone at the newspaper, and the paper has confidence that the anonymously attributed facts are true.

*The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* have both recently revised their guidelines for anonymity, and it’s instructive to look at them. *The Times’* is available at <http://www.nytc.com/sources>. It says, in part, “Whenever anonymity is granted, it should be the subject of energetic negotiation to arrive at phrasing that will tell the reader as much as possible about the *placement and motivation* of the source — in particular, whether the source has firsthand knowledge of the facts.”

Last week, I asked Arts Editor (and last term’s editor in chief) Christine R. Fry about the rape piece. I was pretty shocked to find out that she didn’t know who the author was; she had obtained the piece through the producers of *The Vagina Monologues*. How are we supposed to know that the story is true? If it’s not true, then the strength of the message is radically diminished.

I queried Fry on why she didn’t know the author’s identity, and she said, “I should have asked.” Initially she expressed a concern that asking for the identity might cause the piece to be withdrawn. That’s not a reason not to ask. It might be a reason not to press as hard if the answer is “No” and there’s independent confirmation available.

In the intervening week, though, Fry has made up for it.

Fry now says, “I know who it is ... I am completely certain it is true.”

No single editor should be responsible for maintaining the paper’s credibility on anonymity issues. As part of the production process, all copy is reviewed by both a section editor and the editor in chief (at a minimum). I asked Editor in Chief Brian Loux, and he told me he assumed Fry had known the identity of the author. That’s not good enough. Everyone needs to ask the right questions and cannot assume that all the ducks are in a row. People make mistakes.

A piece like this should be accompanied by an editor’s note explaining its origin, and should give the reader some reason to trust that it is true, such as an assertion about independent fact-checking that was performed.

**Inside coverage boxes**

I strongly agree with Mariana Recalde ’05’s letter published on Friday. The rape piece really should have been mentioned on the front page. But this is a larger issue: *The Tech* really needs to give prominent coverage to more than three items (or two plus comics) on the bottom of the front page, as I wrote in my Jan. 21 column.

Recently, I happened to notice that *The Tech* did a much better job of this prior to its 1998 redesign. From at least 1978 through 1998, the inside coverage box was free-form and allowed for an arbitrary number of items.

*The Tech* should do something to improve the situation. It comes up over and over again. Feb. 20’s issue buried a page 15 story on MIT losing a Nobel laureate Institute Professor — was a front page reference to Dilbert really more important?

**The Tech’s inside coverage box in the March 3, 1998 issue was free-form and could accommodate as many items as it needed to. Why did we change?**

INSIDE	
• I/S surveys students’ computer usage.	Page 9
• Photo Review: Ten Days in Dhaka.	Page 10
• Comics	Page 11
• Ballroom dancers do well at Terrier Danceport.	Page 20
• How on the lessons of Teapot Dome	Page 5

**Features anonymity disappears**

*The Tech’s* features department has made great strides in eliminating unjustified anonymity lately. The editorial staff for new volume (which started in February) appears to be much more concerned with the dangers of anonymity. News and Features Director Beckett W. Sterner and Features Editor Akshay Patil asked the columnists if they’d be willing to be identified, and it seems most are going along with it.

Two weeks ago today, on Feb. 10, the previously anonymous “Sex and the Saferide” columns appeared with bylines, crediting Alex Nelson and Danchai Mekadanaumporn for their work. How many of you noticed?

Of course, they have appeared on the masthead as “features columnists” since Nov. 25, 2003. That’s really hokey. If columnists really and truly are anonymous, their anonymity should have the full support of the paper.

The comics section has also moved to stricter attribution, with “TRIO” credited to Emezie “Emie” Okorafor ’03 (misspelled in every issue since Friday the 13th), “Brian Loux’s comic” credited to Brian Loux (Brian Loux is the editor in chief of the paper; this is weird), and “Filler Space” credited to Jason Burns. This attribution started with the second issue of term, on Feb. 6.

**Weak news section lately**

The past two Tuesday issues have featured only two news stories each. That’s not very much at all. A good issue should have upwards of four.

To pick one item, what’s the deal with coverage of MIT’s presidential search? Yes, there were two articles on Feb. 20, but no real solid information. According to an article in Saturday’s *New York Times* [“Grasso Refuses to Return Any of \$139.5 Million Pay” by Landon Thomas, Jr.], the interim chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, John S. Reed ’61, is being considered for MIT President “according to several members of the search committee.” Where is *The Tech*?

It was also disappointing that the graduate student health insurance announcement didn’t make Friday’s *Tech*. It was pretty important, and the news broke on Wednesday, so there should have been plenty of time.

The *Tech’s* Ombudsman welcomes your feedback, to [ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu). His opinions are his own.

# Got an opinion?

## Be Loud Be Proud

### Write for The Tech!

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



# FEATURES

## It May Not Be Right, But is it Even Wrong? Shoplifting at LaVerde's

By Dan Scolnic

*Disclaimer: I do not in any way encourage shoplifting.*

I don't shoplift — I'm not strong enough to. I do, however, get a little too curious. We've all left a store thinking about how easy it would be to steal something; I happen to think about it every time I enter LaVerde's. Now I don't have anything close to a Dostoevsky "Crime and Punishment" mindset, but nevertheless, I'm pretty curious.

The flimsy, white bar with small red sirens in the front of LaVerde's originally ignited my fascination. I figured the bar was either a really cheap metal detector or some kind of counter. One day I asked one of the store clerks who explained to me that, indeed, it was a metal detector but only for items that have tags on them. It made sense. I recalled all the times I bought candy or a drink and the clerk just typed in the price, so there was no way a machine could discriminate whether or not I shoplifted.

Regardless, the amount of sense the idea made to me was insignificant compared to

how much of it was nonsense. Penalizing one for stealing certain items but not others is like not worrying about certain items being stolen. LaVerde's way of doing it is more encouraging, or better, less discouraging, of shoplifting than having no metal detector whatsoever.

LaVerde's is by no means trying to give encouragement; instead, they are probably sending the message that they trust their buyers and their consciences. Still, LaVerde's wants to cover its back and create some kind of deterrent by using the most frugal method possible. LaVerde's just places an arbitrary line that, when actually thought about, might even seem to backfire against its motivation.

The whole idea of drawing an arbitrary line between what is wrong and what is right manifests itself in many other places at MIT.

Instead of shoplifting, think cheating.

MIT's greatest pride and torture is its problem sets. Everyone knows this, including the teachers, so the teachers allow you to work in groups. The catch is that you cannot blatantly copy, and you have to write down with whom you collaborated. However, that is hardly a catch. In this case, blatantly copying will set off the metal detector as it has notably done so in years past. But because that's the only bad thing one can do, students will come as close as possible to blatantly copying as they can.

Students copy the main pieces of the problem but not the details; they copy the equations but leave out the parameters. Teachers want the students to write down their "own answers," but come on, the answer by the kid down the floor is just so beautiful.

But it's not just that we are worried about getting punished; we are MIT students and we understand that the odds of being caught cheating, especially with a kid in another recitation for a very large class, are slim. The real uneasiness comes from the fact that we are cheating ourselves. We did not come here to copy someone else's answers. But how can we not copy without having to work all by ourselves? It is highly unusual that two people will come up with the same idea; at best, one person will have an idea and the next person will know how to follow it. When you work with other people, there will always be copying.

So MIT draws a line. And even though we know it's arbitrary and too easy, a lot of us want to believe in it because we want to think that we're getting what we paid for; we want to feel that we're fulfilling the reason for which we are here. So if not blatantly copying is fulfilling that reason, then I am happy to follow this arbitrary rule.

So no, I'm not advocating shoplifting at LaVerde's, but all those crazy problem sets sure do make me hungry.

*Teachers want the students to write down their "own answers", but come on, the answer by the kid down the floor is just so beautiful.*

## Scratch Paper Dating: The MIT Way

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Two almost-naked cupid babies greet you with an arrow and heart upon your arrival at the gateway to love: the MIT Match-Up (<http://matchup.mit.edu>). With more than 1,900 student profiles, the free dating web site is still feeling Valentine's Day fever two weeks later through the word-of-mouth buzz.

Last week, a girl friend candidly showed me *le menu* of datable guys. It was almost like choosing the genes of a baby! In addition to choosing the age, build, and height (with those mathy '>' and '<' signs!), you can even think future: to have kids or not? Even public love-making preferences are shamelessly categorized: keep a respectful distance, quick kiss, moochas smoochas, or sneak off for a quickie? It's all there.

Yet, when my quick search returned 150 profiles with headlines like "Getting down to the business of getting down" or "If you want to hear my awesome pick-up lines, we'll have to meet in person," something was missing.

Sure, there were a few genuinely sincere profiles, yet the service also felt, to put it in its own words, "goofy." Love was trivialized in the form of self-promotional ads, where profiles said more about what people wanted in their dream girl/guyfriends and what made them happy rather than how they would make others feel good.

With the information to do the matchmaking so trivial, one must turn to other means of judgment: the photo. It felt like AOL Instant Messenger's "Rate-A-Buddy!" popup that asks people to rate Photoshopped photos of men and women. The popup exclaims, "She's a Britney — except blonder!" or "Tell Her: Is she *yowza*?" (yes, AOL knows I'm female, but it continues to ask me to rank both guys and girls).

Instead of hotness ratings from 1 to 10, the MIT Match-Up uses the percentage of solicitors' e-mails the person

has responded to as an indicator of his/her popularity... or pickiness (the site has since removed the percentages).

A successful site would provide the means to create the love that Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks shared in "You've Got Mail." In the movie, the two rival bookshop owners' rapid-fire instant messages brought about the spark in their anonymous relationship.

Don't get me wrong, the MIT Match-Up has been much-improved since last year, when I wrote a news article for *The Tech* about it. However, people should be allowed to chat online at the match-up site or leave messages in a guest-book. A relationship comes down to communication.

Still, the best romances and deepest friendships I have ever witnessed have come from bold, risk-taking matchmakers who make the first move to connect their single friends. By lifting the pressure off of the couple to exchange introductions, screen names, and contact information, the matchmaker helps the couple focus on what's important: a lasting love.

At least, that was how it used to work.

**We need someone with the confidence of a surgeon, the dedication of a marathoner and the courage of an explorer.**

We have a unique opportunity for someone very special.

A chance to spend two years in another country. To live and work in another culture. To learn a new language and acquire new skills.

The person we're looking for might be a farmer, a for-ester, or a retired nurse. Or

maybe a teacher, a mechanic, or a recent college graduate.

We need someone to join over 5,000 people already working in 60 developing countries around the world. To help people live better lives.

We need someone special. And we ask a lot. But only because so much is needed. If this

sounds interesting to you, maybe you're the person we're looking for. A Peace Corps volunteer. Find out. Call us at

(Collect) 617-565-5555 x598

**PeaceCorps.**  
The toughest job you'll ever love.



This space donated by *The Tech*

**DON'T PROCRASTINATE  
NOMINATE  
2004 Awards Convocation  
..Deadline Friday 3/19..**

**<http://mit.edu/awards>  
email nominations:  
[awards@mit.edu](mailto:awards@mit.edu)  
or send to  
Awards Comm. W20-549**

**Customized Microsoft Access Databases**

- ✉ Import data from Excel, text, other sources
- ✉ Create ad-hoc queries & reports
- ✉ Develop end-user applications
- ✉ Write documentation and train users

Contact: Ramy Bodner 617-509-9123  
Email: [rbodner@flash.net](mailto:rbodner@flash.net)  
Web: [www.bodnerdatabase.com](http://www.bodnerdatabase.com)

**SPRING BREAK '04**  
Don't Get Left Behind!

**SAVE \$100 PER ROOM**  
Clip & Send  
OR  
Use Code:  
PRMMG  
Online

Cannot be combined with any other offer.  
\$100 off per room based on quad occupancy.  
Only valid for trips including airfare. Offer expires April 1, 2004.

**[www.sunspashtours.com](http://www.sunspashtours.com)**  
**1.800.426.7710**

## ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★1/2

*'The Passion': A One Trick Pony**More Hype Than Soul*

By Philip Burrowes

*The Passion of the Christ*  
Written by Benedict Fitzgerald, Mel Gibson  
Directed by Mel Gibson  
Starring James Caviezel, Monica Bellucci,  
Maia Morgenstern, Hristo Shopov  
Rated R

In a way, "The Passion" is the reverse of Peter Jackson's "Rings" series. Whereas Jackson had to compress hundreds of pages into a few hours, Mel Gibson had but a few pages to expand upon. Other Biblical works have compensated for the brevity of the source text with some sort of filler like songs ("Prince of Egypt") or hypothetical situations ("The Last Temptation of Christ"). A striking amount of the scenes in "The Passion," however, are simply passages lifted from the Gospel and drawn out over several minutes. The result is hit or miss, with more of the latter than the former.

First of all, this lack of source means the movie has a very slow pace. We see multiple shots of some events, and slowed-down shots of others. The second technique especially is overused and makes it seem like Gibson is trying to tell us, "This scene is especially important," over and over again. Each scene is also usually something the audience is familiar with, and you may find yourself wishing a scene would just end once you feel you've got the point.

Two characters probably benefit from this style, however: Satan and Judas. Judas is depicted as a man immediately guilty for bringing the Judean guard to Jesus. His torment is more thrilling than that of Jesus himself because we don't see the exact path towards Judas' death coming. Satan is shown assaulting him with demons in the form of children, progressively chasing him out of town in the film's second most disturbing sequence. Rosalinda Celentano turns in a magnificently creepy per-

formance as an understated yet undeniably demonic Satan. Gibson's repeated focus on her unemotional gaze and ceaseless stalking of Jesus never fail to foster a sense of unease.

One scene also stands out thanks to Gibson's lugubrious take on the story, and that is Jesus' whipping at the hand of Romans. Already beaten soundly by an assembly of Judeans, Jesus is sent to be whipped by the Roman procurator Pilate, who is reluctant to have Jesus executed. Some Roman soldiers proceed to give Jesus a vicious flogging to the point where both sides of his ribcage have been exposed. It is the most graphic and realistic cinematic beating I have ever seen, an experience emphasized by its length.

Consequently, nothing in the rest of the film can match it. Even watching Jesus get nailed to the cross lacks the comparable visceral impact. Having reached its emotional apex before its narrative one, the story seems almost empty afterward.

Perhaps if the cast could have injected more dynamic into their roles, they could have saved (no pun intended) the picture. Leaving aside how poorly they're probably speaking languages that certainly aren't their native tongues (the script is written in Aramaic and Latin with English subtitles), we can't detect any change in their persona because almost everyone is locked into one feeling for the movie's duration. Caviezel's Jesus is perpetu-

ally in pain, Morgenstern's Mary always tries to help, and a miscast Bellucci keeps crying as Magdalene. Only Hristo Shopov as Pilate gets to truly act.

Scattered flashbacks better showcase the ensemble's acting chops, but as endearing they can come across, those vignettes often serve more of a distraction from the story than a helpful narrative device. Anyone not considerably familiar with the backstory might become especially lost, wondering why they are suddenly watching things like palm fronds waving in front of the camera. One might also wonder where Jesus' supposed fathers are, as both

Joseph and the Creator/Spirit are noticeably absent from the screen.

Gibson, to his credit, didn't intend for this film to be very accessible. For a while it wasn't going to even have subtitles, and despite its wide release it is notably absent from certain theaters in the country. Do not go expecting to see something new or to have old faith restored. In fact, it's not a very uplifting piece, although it certainly has its miraculous elements. Even if the crucifixion story is one which holds special resonance with you, you may still be disappointed. Just stay home and read the Book.

James Caviezel plays Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ*.

## SUGAR &amp; SPICE

*Canned Foods: Not So Mmm Mmm Good**Skip the Fake Pasta and Make It Yourself*

By Marissa Cheng

STAFF WRITER

My fling with canned, pre-prepared food has come to an end. To all of those who fear that I have become a depraved, I-only-buy-fresh-organic-produce-from-a-small-farmer-named-Frank maniac, let me assuage your doubts. I still like the genre of canned food that includes canned tomatoes, canned fruit, canned broth, etc, although canned meat besides tuna fish is a travesty. By canned food, I mean Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti-Os, canned soups, etc.

Growing up, I never experienced the dubious joy of canned food. Thus, once I reached college, I developed an all-consuming desire not for alcohol, but for foods I'd never tried. This not only included things like Indian food, Persian food, and Cape Verdean food, but also extended to canned food, mac and cheese from a box, frozen dinners, and Chinese delivery. (My foray into frozen food has just begun: last week I bought a frozen cake.)

Back to the canned food. I just don't understand what the allure is. Despite the speediness of preparation (reheat in microwave, or eat cold) and the cheap nature of canned food (Campbell's Select is on sale at Star Market this week, two for \$3), you would do better with Ramen. This only takes about two more minutes to prepare, and is actually cheaper (please omit the flavor packet). However, should you want to eat something that tastes like real food, I would not recommend

canned food to you.

A couple weeks ago, I bought a couple cans of canned spaghetti and canned ravioli. I'd seen a friend eating Spaghetti-Os over the past few months, and I wanted to know if they actually tasted good. I suppose it was something about the shape of the pasta that made it so enticing. Well, canned pasta definitely tastes like no other food I've ever tasted. What you get is this thing they call "pasta" in a sauce that resembles a low-end Chinese restaurant's sweet-and-sour sauce.

First, let's discuss the pasta. Anyone who has ever had fresh pasta should not eat canned pasta. It's disgusting — mushy, discolored, with a taste resembling sawdust. It's an insult to real pasta — the kind that you boil on the stovetop. Then, there's the sauce. It's thickened with cornstarch, MSG, and god knows what else, with a taste so sweet that it's cloying. And the beef ravioli — I learned my lesson there. To say that the ravioli tasted even remotely like beef would be a blatant lie. However, they do taste like highly-spiced cardboard.

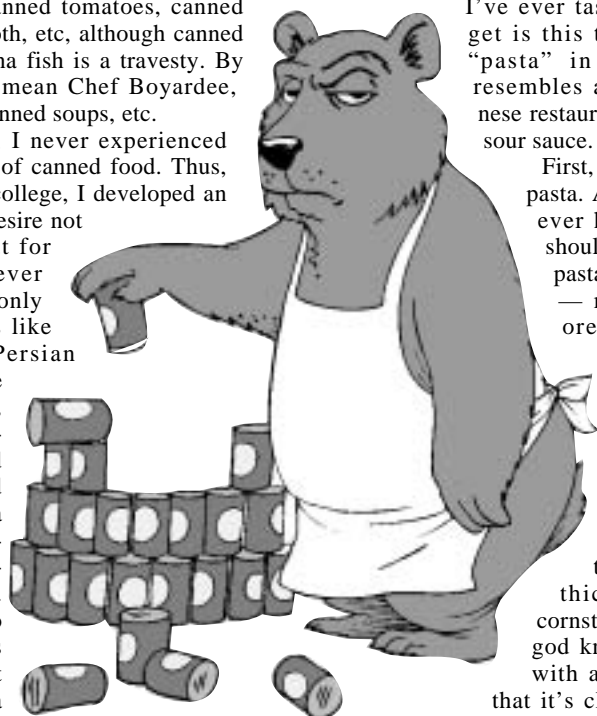
To top it off, this stuff isn't even healthy for you. Sure, the bright red can might look pretty, but then, a box of cigarettes might look pretty too, and that's certainly not good for you. My can of beef ravioli has 13 percent of my daily value of saturated fat (and that's if I'm eating half the can), almost half of my sodium, and enough sugar to make up

for the salt. It has no vitamin A, no vitamin C, no calcium, no iron, and though it has nine grams of protein, you could just eat a piece of real meat and be that much better off. At least the high fructose corn syrup and MSG are relatively far down on the list of ingredients.

My last foray into the canned food world involved a can of Progresso "Pot Roast" soup that my dad gave me. My initial doubts, given the name of the soup, were not unfounded. The soup consisted of carrots, tiny onions, even chunks of "beef" in a can, all combined with that same oddly cloying,

cornstarch-thickened liquid. The chunks of "beef" were brown on the outside, pink on the inside, as if they had been injected with food coloring. The rest was just mush. It was at that point, I decided that there would be no more canned food.

I suppose that it was just too good to be true — like the chewing gum in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory that tastes like an entire meal (not all at once, of course). Canned food may have been invented as a way to feed armies, but the American army doesn't eat canned food any more, and neither should you.



## WMBR's Top Albums

Here are some of the most popular records played this week on WMBR, 88.1 FM, MIT's student-staffed radio station.

1. **Henry Flynt & The Insurrections** ... "I Don't Wanna"
2. **Lambchop** ... "Aw Cmon / No You Cmon" [Radio]
3. **Various Artists** ... "Night Recordings from Bali"
4. **Coachwhips** ... "Bangers..."
5. **Cheeps** ... "The Cheeps"
6. **Numbers** ... "In My Mind All The Time"
7. **Liars** ... "They Were Wrong, So We Drowned"
8. **Channel** ... "Tones Are Falling"
9. **M83** ... "Dead Cities, Red Seas and Lost Ghosts"
10. **Shalabi Effect** ... "Pink Abyss"

To hear these and many other artists, tune in to 88.1 FM or at <http://wmb.mit.edu> for live streaming MP3. Visit the Web site for WMBR's program schedule.

SOURCE: WMBR

## ALBUM REVIEW

# Pavement Keeps Us 'Enchanted' Over a Decade Later

## Obscure Band Could Have Had Nirvana's Success

By Andrew Lee

*Slanted and Enchanted*

Pavement

Matador Records

April 17, 1992

One day, while making the rounds of my favorite Web sites, I spotted a link to a music site described as "the eternal hipster homepage." Apparently, these people at <http://pitchforkmedia.com> had compiled a sprawling list of the top 100 albums of the 1990's. The nineties was one of those decades that I lived in, but didn't pay much attention to at the time, so I was eager to check out what I'd missed music-wise. The list occasionally contained a band that I remotely recognized, but the real surprise was the top ten. How did this band, Pavement, squeeze two albums up there? One of these albums, "Slanted and Enchanted," was even ranked just above Nirvana's "Nevermind." As a Nirvana fan, that was an open challenge, so I put Pavement onto my listening agenda.

The band's own name turns out to be an excellent metaphor for the feel of their early sound. The guitars have a rough but consis-

tent texture similar to that of focused blasts of radio static. Released independently in 1992, "Slanted and Enchanted" was Pavement's debut album. It was recorded principally by Stephen Malkmus and Scott Kannberg, two guitarists in their twenties who had known each other before college. Along for the ride was Gary Young, a hippie relic drummer who gave the band's performances a zany vibe with his drunken stage acrobatics. But Young's eccentric behavior wasn't the only reason Pavement was unusual.

On first listen, "Slanted and Enchanted" is immediately distinctive for its muddy production. Imagine listening over a telephone to a band playing in their basement. The album's demo-like quality, instead of becoming an irritating distraction, puts the spotlight on the spontaneity. Pavement's decision to record the album in such a primitive setting was either a bold move or laziness on their part. Either way, the reason why this has become an indie classic is the way it consistently maintains an almost ridiculous level of quality while working with such an unpredictable sound.

While the CD's tracks are instrumentally unique, it is Malkmus' vocals that make them

one-of-a-kind. With his tired, half-sung, half-spoken delivery, it sometimes feels as though Malkmus is singing a different song than the band is playing, but the strange contrast pays off perfectly. By throwing in some spoken word, deranged yelping, and the occasional pop-influenced "sha-la-la," Malkmus creates an atmosphere where almost anything goes.

Malkmus' lyrics are just as bizarre as his vocal style. Any conventional sense of continuity goes right out the window, with his cut-and-paste sentences sounding like they were clipped out of an oddball mad lib. In order to find any reason in this random wordplay, you have to relax your brain somewhat: it's a little like unfocusing your eyes in order to see a 3D picture. Mysterious fragments like "I am not one half of the problem/ Zurich is stained, and it's not my fault" or "Every time I look around, I find I'm shot" are surprisingly clever and endlessly quotable.

When someone says that an album is front-heavy, it usually means that the three or four best tracks are placed highest in the track order. When I use the term to describe "Slanted and Enchanted," I mean that the first two-thirds of the album is effortlessly excellent.

Pavement seems to delight in following insanity with brilliance. The maniacal screams and shrieking guitars of "No Life Singed Her" immediately precede the understated and sublime "In The Mouth A Desert." Right after the hilarious strutting of the playful jam "Chesley's Little Wrists" is the noisy exhaustion of "Loretta's Scars." These tracks would have seemed immature or primitive in the hands of another band or singer, but Pavement casually spins off a string of lo-fi pop gems.

Nirvana steered popular music of the 1990's into a territory of sober introspection and angst amplified by power chords. Listening to Pavement is like meeting the long-lost twin of mainstream alternative — the one that didn't make it big. "Slanted and Enchanted" didn't gain much notice outside of the underground, and understandably so. This band is gloriously weird. Would I put this record right up with "Nevermind"? Sure, and I wouldn't have minded seeing Pavement be the one to saturate MTV with videos and performances. I don't think I would have wanted to miss watching a drummer who does handstands.

## CLASSICAL REVIEW

# American String Quartet Plays Haydn With Vigor

## Haydn's 'Quartet Op. 76 No. 1' Is Lively and Colorful

By Bogdan Fedeles

STAFF WRITER

*American String Quartet*

MIT Kresge Auditorium

Feb. 28, 8 p.m.

Last Saturday, MIT's Kresge Auditorium hosted a remarkable concert that I am sure most chamber music enthusiasts didn't miss. Featured by the MIT Guest Artist Series, the American String Quartet delighted the large audience with an intensely delivered program that included Haydn, Danielpour, and Brahms. The directness of delivery and the beautifully cohesive musical voice of the group were impressive, contributing to the instant success of the performance. Aside from their technical merits, the group's enthusiasm added significant quality to the musical experience.

Haydn's "Quartet Op. 76 No. 1" received a fine performance, expressive and colorful, the attitude of the group resembling that of a nurturing mother caring for its beloved child. Being one of Haydn's late quartets, hence famous and played often, the piece limits the opportunities for original expression. Yet, the American String Quartet delivered Haydn's quartet in a manner that combined originality and good taste to a musically pure and witty result. The dialogue between parts — a frequent device in the piece — was used to highlight the individual voice of each instrument, but without compromising the ensemble sonority. The Haydnian wit was also exploited (the ending-like beginning of the first movement or the unusual endings of the second and fourth movements) with theatrical postures.

By contrast, Brahms' "Quartet Op. 51 No. 2" was approached with a rather calculated distance and religious respect, but entirely appropriate for a piece found at the confluence of the classical and romantic music. The symphonic sonorities required by the work came out entirely expressive and intense, full of the pathos that Brahms' music is endowed with. In the first movement, the beautiful second theme unraveled full of grace opposing the more aggressive, forcefully delivered principal idea. Elegant playing poised both the dreamier second movement and delicately joyful minuet and trio. Finally, the loud and folksy finale was delivered with utmost agility and intensity, concluding a very articulate and enjoyable performance of Brahms' string quartet.

Richard Danielpour's "String Quartet No. 4 'Apparitions,'" written in 2001, constituted perhaps the high point of the concert. The American String Quartet, confirming their interest and appreciation for new music, delivered an exceptional rendition of Danielpour's fascinating yet demanding music, with remarkable ease and

flair. The piece brings together, under its mysterious title, five unrelated stories, each involving supernatural relationships transcending time.

The first, "Rudolpho's Dream," brings back the main character of Puccini's "La Boheme," longing for his beloved Mimi. The atmospheric dreamy music, made up of broken chords and harmonics, is ensnaring, whereas the beautiful cello lament, symbolizing the lost love, is haunting. Following, there is "Katrina and the Children," a story about the wife of the railroad tycoon Spencer Trask. Katrina, whose children tragically all died, joins a fantastic ball taking place at the family's mansion, Yaddo (currently an artist's retreat). The agitated beginning of the movement soon leads to a waltz-like pulse, interrupted from time to time, by shrieking, ghostly sonorities. Given the vivid and marvelous interpretation, one could almost see the apparitions of these ghosts in the huge mansion of Saratoga Springs, NY.

The middle movement, "Swan Song," is a tale about the composer's grandmother who, although stricken with Parkinson's and arthritis, a few days before her death, started to talk

and sing about her beloved, dead for a few years. The strong love connection beyond time is evoked as a long, winding melody on top of a delicate ostinato accompaniment. The melody often uses the interval of augmented second, a strong reminiscent of the Middle Eastern music the composer's grandmother used to sing. The seamless shift from one instrument to another is mesmerizing, suggesting the universality of the feeling.

A faster movement follows, "Last Tango at Teatro Colon," inspired by the famous opera house in Buenos Aires. Here, in the decades following World War II, a tense audience made up of Jews and Nazis shared the hall, animated by their common interest in music in a symbolic, all-be-it superficial and formal reconciliation. The music sustains the tango rhythm from beginning until the end, and despite more agitated sections with very dissonant chords, the tango remains in the end the single, defining idea. The performance was again impressive, Danielpour's music suiting very well the temper and musical attitude of the quartet.

Finally, the work closes with the strange tale of Johnnie Brown, the pet monkey of the

famous Florida architect, Mizner. Apparently the architect cared so deeply for his pet that he was never the same after Johnnie died. Moreover, the tombstone of the monkey reads "Johnnie Brown-the Human Monkey," a strange epitaph to say the least. The music is fueled by this mystery and mostly explores the unusual strong bond between the person and his pet. On top of an agitated landscape of rising and descending scale fragments, one hears an almost exact quote of a children's tune, suggesting the monkey's behavior. However, once the motif slowly disintegrates, the coherence of the grave background is also lost and the piece ends on a serene, subdued chord. The quartet played with intensity and delivered once more a very credible musical apparition.

I greatly enjoyed Danielpour's Quartet because, unlike a lot of the new classical music, it sounded very coherent and accessible at the very first listening. Of course, this was mostly because of the superb performance delivered by the American String Quartet, whose delightful concert last Saturday will certainly make me look for some of their recordings.



Environmental Networking, Socializing, & Informal Conversation @ MIT

**EnviroForum**  
[web.mit.edu/enviroforum](http://web.mit.edu/enviroforum)  
 "People Shaping the Environment: Research and Activities at MIT"

Brief Presentations By:  
**Leon Glicksman**, Architecture and Mechanical Eng. Professor  
**Paul Parravano**, Co-Director, Government & Community Relations

Wednesday, March 10, 4-6 pm  
 Bush Room (Bldg. 10 - 1st floor)  
 - REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED -





**Bad Taste, from Page 1**

(As a side note, Bad Taste is easier than Gauss's Law, though Kabuki plays, often five hours in length, are only slightly longer than Bad Taste, and are surely better ventilated. And the flux out of 10-250 starting at oh, 11:30 p.m. or so, was positive.)

After the toilet paper and plastic dart guns calmed down and the list of people who would be offended was read, the first skit of the evening began, a takeoff of one of the more successful reality TV shows: Harvard Eye For an MIT Guy. Here, Christopher L. Follett '07, the quintessential reuse-loving, clean-clothes-hating East Campus resident is made over by a troupe of Abercrombie kids from Harvard, led by a hilarious Alexander S. del Nido '05, complete with fake British accent and a consistently raised nose.

In one part of the skit, del Nido attends a 3.091 lecture, answers his cell phone, and is promptly thrown out by an irate Professor Sadoway, played by Ross Runnion '04, who screamed at del Nido, "Do your friends have a PhD?" Other parts of the Kabuki play called Bad Taste included the "101 things this acronym could stand for" skit. This year, CMI was the victim, with some highlights including "college men, idiots," "Chinese men, itty-bitty," and "speed of light, mass, square root of minus one."

The LSC previews were also back this year with "Mozilla" terrorizing people for not deleting their lock file and an incomprehensible Asian math teacher played by Bo S. Kim '04 in "Lost in Translation." The excessive puns skit focused on Course

(clockwise from upper left)

Prathima Nandivada '06 flips off the crowd during Haku's "Perfect Day."

Soloist Prathima Nandivada '06 sings the crowd out of the girl on pass/fail.

Kuangshin Tai G and Mary R. Williamson

"We interrupted your request!" Sven H. Kim '04 pelts the performers with a rolled up paper.

At the end of "Harvard Eye for the MIT Guy," Bo S. Kim '04, shoots the Harvard fashionists and the MIT/Wellesley Toons singers.

Sandra Rindler '06 is reflected in a mirror as a butler during "Story Hour With the Administration."

The Chorallaries presented their ninth annual night in 10-250.

Photography by Daniel R. Bersak, Dmitry



VI jokes this year. The words of the girl in the row behind me sum it up nicely: "I'm embarrassed that I understand 20 percent of it." I figure that someday, the 10-250 audience will be too young to remember what a 5 1/4-inch floppy is, but until that day comes, we... wait, did I just write a sentence with "5 1/4-inch floppy" and "comes" in it? Wow, I guess Bad Taste has had at least some effect on me.

Oh yeah, there was singing, too, but thankfully not too much of it. Not that the Chorallaries can't sing. Believe me, they can. But we were all there to see the guest group, the Toons, give singing and raunchy humor the ol' college try, as they say. It's just that a cappella concerts are a dime a dozen here, but geek and sex jokes are priceless.

Well, not quite. The going price was \$10, as sold on eBay to Jason W. Carver '06. Carver's choice to buy a ticket to the front of the line instead of waiting begs the question of why people wait in line in the first place, especially since everybody gets into 10-250 anyway. I guess the simplest reason is that if you're going to get all sweaty and smelly sitting next to your friends for two and a half hours listening to jokes about Aimee Smith and the Assassins Guild, what's an extra two and a half days spent playing video games outside of 10-250?

One more skit, if you'll indulge me. The debate for the next president of MIT featured as candidates Marilee Jones, Aimee Smith, Janet Jackson, Al Gore, and the Ghetto Party. The roles were predictable, with the best line perhaps by Al Gore at the end of the skit as the other four contestants starting shoving each other around: "I invented

fighting."

That skit got me thinking about Bad Taste in its larger context at MIT. Quite frankly, the offensive ghetto party e-mail pales in comparison. Somehow, parts of MIT's culture that are highly inappropriate (Bad Taste) and even technically illegal (Tangerine and Orange Tours, and hacking in general) manage to survive in an era of unprecedented administrative meddling (the recent flag and fourth of July raft incidents) and mild outbreaks over petty e-mails among friends to private e-mail lists (the ghetto party).

Spending a night in 10-250 listening to offensive and, yes, racist jokes about every type of person imaginable, a stone's throw from the office of the President, who was so incensed about the ghetto party, made me realize that if any high-up administrators ever attended Bad Taste, we'd all be in sensitivity training faster than you could say "Diversity GIR." And we'd be in for it even faster if President Vest heard some of the top ten things he'll do after he leaves MIT. Let's just say that Mrs. Vest appears on the list more than once, in different orientations relative to the horizontal.

Does that mean that Bad Taste should be stopped? I wouldn't put it past the current MIT administration, which would ban toasters if they could think up a half-decent reason why. But no, it should not be stopped. If you don't like the jokes, you're free to leave. No one — save perhaps DKE — was unfairly singled out, and DKE certainly doesn't represent a racial minority, though they are approaching an endangered species.

The bottom line: good humor has bite. Period, paragraph.



... during her performance of "On Pass/Fail," an adaptation of

... the Chorallaries' remix of "Perfect Day" about a drunk freshman

'06 scoop piles of paper into a garbage bag after the show.

Chilton '05, enraged by a particularly awful computer joke, threw a projectile.

"Guy," the Darwinist couple from MIT, Chris Follett '07, Bo S. and the audience to save the world "one moron at a time."

g, "Stacy's mom has got a giant schlong!"

... eup mirror backstage as she prepares to play Charles Vest's administration."

... al Bad Taste Concert, beginning at 10:59:59 PM on Saturday

Portnyagin, and Sylvia Yang.

—THE TECH



## Trio

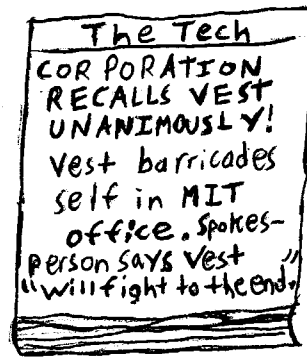
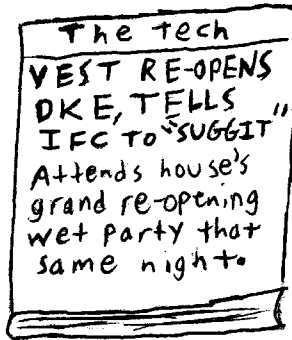
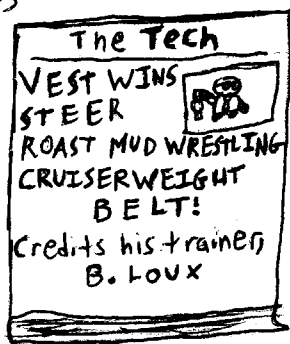
NEW! ANIMATRIX ANIMA-TRIO THEATRE: [alum.mit.edu/www/emie](http://alum.mit.edu/www/emie)

by Emezie Okorafor



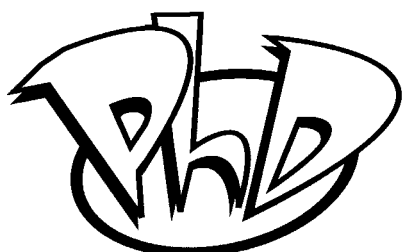
by Brian Loux

## Makin' Headlines



## Kirason's corner

by Emily Yan



PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



**Crossword Puzzle**

*Solution, page 17*

**ACROSS**

- 1 Giraffe's cousin
- 6 Art Tatum's jazz style
- 9 Uneven cuts
- 14 Bike feature
- 15 Hubbub
- 16 Of sound quality
- 17 Incantation
- 18 Fawn's mom
- 19 Ne plus \_\_\_
- 20 Market plot
- 23 Gear tooth
- 24 Exist
- 25 20A coconspirators
- 34 Additional edits
- 35 Employs
- 36 Fate
- 37 Aware of
- 38 Stereo part
- 39 Son of Agrippina
- 40 Of ears: pref.
- 41 Puccini song

- 43 Atom with a variable nucleus
- 45 20A co-conspirators
- 48 Birthday number
- 49 Jack of "Barney Miller"
- 50 Lesson for 25A and 45A
- 58 Burton of "Roots"
- 59 Dallas sch.
- 60 Brouhahas
- 62 Dancer Astaire
- 63 Tell whoppers
- 64 Madagascar lemur
- 65 Nuzzled
- 66 California fort
- 67 Cromwell's earldom

**DOWN**

- 1 Wife of Saturn
- 2 Military cap
- 3 Middle East gulf
- 4 Clique members
- 5 Unlawful
- 6 Rotten apple's associate?
- 7 Aroma
- 8 Keats or Yeats
- 9 J.E.B. and Gilbert
- 10 Salinger's Caulfield
- 11 Debate side
- 12 Senator Jake the astronaut
- 13 Smelting residue
- 21 Adams and Rickles
- 22 Spotted infrequently
- 25 Boy Scout unit
- 26 Oscar de la \_\_\_
- 27 One in a cast
- 28 Couple
- 29 Mountain lions
- 30 Horned viper

- 31 Bursera resin
- 32 Music critic Ned
- 33 Mall unit
- 38 Jordan's nickname
- 39 And also not
- 41 Enraged
- 42 Marsh plant
- 43 Aware of
- 44 Small terrier
- 46 Mexican menu item
- 47 Published
- 50 Extended family
- 51 Start again from scratch
- 52 Currier and \_\_\_
- 53 Christiania, today
- 54 Bahrain ruler
- 55 Soprano Lily
- 56 Tacks on
- 57 Eld
- 61 "With \_\_\_ You Get Eggroll"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15			16			
17						18			19			
	20				21			22				
				23				24				
25	26	27	28			29	30			31	32	33
34						35				36		
37						38				39		
40				41	42			43	44			
45			46					47				
			48					49				
50	51	52				53	54			55	56	57
58						59			60			61
62						63			64			
65						66			67			

**COME HOME to WALKER**

**Pete's Arena  
Pizza & Pasta,  
HOMETOWN ENTREES.  
The Deli, Noodle Bowl**

**WALKER DINING • Building 50 - first floor**  
Open Monday - Thursday 7:30am - 3:00pm  
Friday 7:30am - 2:00pm



**Our new  
Low fat  
sandwiches  
are now  
being served.**

Bio Café featuring **Sub Connection**  
Building 68, Biology Building  
31 Ames Street  
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm

# Events Calendar

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

## Tuesday, March 2

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – WHOI Donut and Coffee Hour.** Come join your classmates for post-bus, pre-classes refreshments! Free. Room: WHOI Student Center. Sponsor: WHOI Student Organization.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Self Assessment: Finding a Place to Start.** Get an introduction to concepts to help you think about your future career decisions; see some techniques for career decision-making, and receive a framework for understanding your needs, wants, values, skills, and priorities. All workshops require pre-registration. Register for workshops at <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/services/workshops.html>, select Calendar of Workshops. Free. Room: 12-196. Sponsor: Career Services Office.

**12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Finding Amphetamine's Place in Medicine, 1930-1950.** Dibner Institute Luncheon Colloquium. Free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Excel User Group.** Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Services and Technology.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – How to Build the World's Largest Technology Business.** Hewlett-Packard's Imaging and Printing group has grown from nothing in 1984 to a 24 billion dollar organization. In most markets that its various divisions participate in, they are not only the largest in their respective fields, but larger than all competitors combined — and they've maintained that lead for better than a decade. How does a new technology grow from a wild idea, like using exploding water to spray ink on a page, into a huge profitable business? In this talk, Mr. Cloutier will recount the history of ink-jet printing, to chronicle the key axioms that HP has used to base its business success and the role that technology invention has played in shaping that success. Free. Room: Bartos Theater, E15. Sponsor: MIT Sloan Public Web Site.

**12:05 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Mass.** Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. – The US Gender Pay Gap in the 1990's: Slowing Convergence.** Spring Seminar Series. Free. Room: E51-390. Sponsor: MIT Workplace Center. & the the Institute for Work & Employment Research.

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Discretization of Parabolic PDE's for Stefan Problems and Image Segmentation.** Refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in 2-349. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Physical Mathematics Seminar.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – MITea Time — Culture Exchange — English Chinese Class.** Our free English class is good for newcomers to get start their English conversations in a very friendly environment. Free. Room: 36-156. Sponsor: Chinese Student and Scholar Association, Graduate Student Council. MIT CSSA & GSC.

**3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – MTL VLSI Seminar Series.** High-speed self-calibrating folding ADC. Free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar.

**4:00 p.m. – MIT Physical Chemistry Seminar: Professor William H. Green, Jr. MIT Department of Chemical Engineering.** Room: 4-270 Predicting Reactive Chemistry of Complex Systems. Professor William H. Green Jr. of the MIT Department of Chemical Engineering MIT Physical Chemistry speaks. Free.

## Wednesday, March 3

**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – Optics & Quantum Electronics Seminar Series.** High-Power Fiber Lasers. Free. Room: Kolker Room 26-414 (on this date only). Sponsor: Optics.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – GAME Lunchtime Seminar Series.** Room: 1-242. Sponsor: Graduate Association of Mechanical Engineers, GSC Funding Board.

**12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – LBGT and Questioning Students' Brown Bag Lunch Discussion: Queer Art a Decade After Identity Politics.** Bring your own lunch! Stop by the Rainbow Lounge to chat with other LBGTQ students and staff about topics that matter to you! For MIT students. Bring your questions about queer activism, queer art, and what all of it means for the LBGTQ community today! Hosted by Bill Arning, Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center. Organized by Emily M.M. Howe, Coordinator, Women's Studies. Free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbg@mit.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Air Quality, Infant Mortality, and the Clean Air Act of 1970.** We examine the effects of total suspended particulates (TSPs) air pollution on infant health using the air quality improvements induced by the 1970 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA). Free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Mac OS X Quick Start.** Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Services and Technology.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Environment and Sustainability Seminar Series - Air Quality, Infant Mortality, and the Clean Air Act of 1970.** Free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, The Environment at MIT Web Site. Department of Economics.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – The Rise of China and the New Balance of Power in East Asia.** Brown bag lunch. Free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Security Studies Program.

**12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. – Mid-Day Prayer.** Brief service of prayer in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. All are welcome. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

**12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Chatter by the Charles Toastmasters Meeting.** Free. Room: E19-429. Sponsor: Toastmasters, MIT Organization and Employee Development, Human Resources, Training at MIT.

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – String/Gravity Seminar.** Aspects of Hadronic Physics in the Gauge/Gravity Correspondence. Free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Isshinryu Karate Workout.** Traditional Okinawan Karate in a Small Club Environment. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Isshinryu Karate-do at MIT.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – 16.S26 Seminar (Prof. Brian Williams).** Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro, Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – HPCES Seminar.** Representation of integer optimization problems. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Singapore-MIT Alliance/HPCES.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hierarchical, Adaptive Clustering by Weighted Aggregation.** Clustering is a useful method for learning the intrinsic structure of data. In this talk I will describe a novel, highly efficient approach to determine all salient clusters, at all different scales, and that builds them into a hierarchical structure. Free. Room: E25-401. Sponsor: Brains and Machines Seminar Series, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, McGovern Institute. Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL).

**4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – Tie-Breakers.** Reception at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – LAI Research Seminar.** The CLIOS Process as a Way to Deal with Physical and Institutional Complexity. Free. Room: 41-218. Sponsor: AeroAstro Lean Aerospace Initiative.

**5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open.** MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and questioning members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. Free. Room: Rainbow Lounge (50-306). Sponsor: lbg@mit.

**5:10 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion).** All students, staff and faculty are welcome at our weekly worship service. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

**5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. – General Council Meeting.** Agenda: Room: 50-220. Sponsor: GSC Meetings.

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study.** Come join us for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship! We are currently studying the book of Acts. Free. Room: 66-369. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Start up Clinic.** Through our Start-up Clinics, attendees discover how to present a plan to potential investors. Two pre-selected companies present their business plans and receive feedback from a panel of experts and the audience over an informal dinner. Room: MIT Faculty Club, E52, 6th Floor. Sponsor: MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Inc.

**6:00 p.m. – Lewis Mumford's City and Films of the New Deal.** HTC Film Series. Free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

**6:30 p.m. – "Technology & Tradition in Contemporary Japanese Architecture."** Architecture talk with Hitoshi Abe, architect, Sendai, and Takaharu Tezuka, architect, Tokyo with moderator Clifford Pearson, senior editor, Architectural Record. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Department of Architecture. Japan Society of Boston and Japan Society (New York).

**7:30 p.m. – Censorship: Left, right, & center.** Renowned attorneys and social critics Wendy Kaminer and Harvey Silvergate lead a discussion on the repression of dissent in America's schools and beyond. Free. Room: 3 Church St., Harvard Square. Sponsor: Board of Chaplains. The Cambridge Forum.

**8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Israeli Folk Dancing (participatory).** Israeli Folk Dancing Early Teaching at 8 p.m., followed by teaching and requests until 11 p.m. Beginners are always welcome. Family dancing usually occurs from 7-8 p.m. each week. Great for kids of all ages! To confirm family dancing for a given week, and for up-to-date announcements about each week's dance, see our Yahoo! Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mitfdc/messages>. Free for MIT students; donations welcome. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

**8:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. – Swing Dancing.** Beginners welcome, no partner necessary. Free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society, GSC Funding Board.

**10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. – Brazilian Carnival 2004.** MIT - Harvard - BU - Suffolk - BC presents, the most expected event in Boston, the real Brazilian Carnival: CARNAVAL 2004, Wednesday, March 3, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. With the Samba band, Banda Ponto Com. Advanced Tickets: \$15. Where to buy: MIT Sloan (Lilian, [lalmeida@mit.edu](mailto:lalmeida@mit.edu) and Nicolas [nscafuro@sloan.mit.edu](mailto:nscafuro@sloan.mit.edu)) 21+ (ID required). Advanced: \$15. Room: The MATRIX, 275 Tremont St - Boston. Sponsor: Brazilian Student Association, Brazilian Club @ Sloan.

## Thursday, March 4

**9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Tax Workstop for International Scholars.** Free. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico, 2nd Floor, Student Center. Sponsor: International Scholars Office.

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – WHOI Donut and Coffee Hour.** Free. Room: WHOI Student Center. Sponsor: WHOI Student Organization.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – English Bible Class.** You are welcome to attend this free Bible class led by Barbara Beevers of Baptist Campus Ministry. International spouses are welcome especially, but open to all. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

**12:00 p.m. – MIT Chapel Concert.** Claire Meghnagi, soprano; Zvi Orlanski, cello; Misha Grandel, trumpet; Pedro Persone, harpsichord. H. Purcell's "Music for a while. Free. Room: Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – TechTime: MIT Personal Calendar Quick Start.** Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Services and Technology.

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Free Conversational English Class.** International students, scholars and spouses are welcome to attend a free conversational English class. Come exchange culture, learn about American culture and holidays and make lasting friends. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Sharks in the Sun: Organized Crime in the New Japan.** Velisarios Kattoulas graduated with honors in Japanese and Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University, in 1993. After a short stint as an investment banker he joined Reuters News Agency and worked in its bureaus in London, Tokyo, Osaka and Beijing. In 1996, he became bureau chief in Tokyo for the International Herald Tribune, covering Japan and the Korean Peninsula. In 1998, he joined Newsweek to cover economics in East Asia. Free. Room: E38, 7th floor conference room. Sponsor: MIT Japan Program, Center for International Studies.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) Info Session.** For the past four years, MIT has participated in the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES). This two-week summer symposium in Switzerland brings undergraduate and graduate students from many disciplines together to discuss the challenge of sustainable development. Free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment.

**4:10 p.m. - 5:10 p.m. – The 2004 Robert S. Harris Lecture.** Sponsored by the Biological Engineering Division & the MIT Center for Environmental Health Sciences. Free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Biological Engineering Division.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Physics Colloquium Series: "Carbon Nanotubes: Electrons in a 1D World."** The Physics Community is invited to a pre-lecture reception at 3:45 p.m. in room 4-339. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

**4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – The Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984.** Dr. Ken Geiser, Director of the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute, will discuss issues to be taken up at a global level when large corporations enter third world nations, lessons from such disasters and what has been done by the industrial control authorities worldwide since the Bhopal gas leak. Free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies, Program on Human Rights & Justice.

**5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Mars Gravity Speaker Event.** Hear an interesting talk about current and past Mars exploration activities! Free. Room: 1-190. Sponsor: UA Finance Board, AeroAstro.

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Grad Student Bible Study for Absolute Beginners.** Weekly informal Bible study for grad students; refreshments provided; lgbt welcome. Free. Room: W11-007. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Chenrezig Mandala @ MIT.** The Mandala, or Tibetan sand painting, is an ancient art form of Tibetan Buddhism, thought to have originated in India. The MIT sand mandala will be a vehicle to promote spiritual healing within the MIT community, symbolizing compassion, acceptance and peace. Free. Room: Simmons Hall Multipurpose Room. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, Committee on Campus Race Relations, ARCADE (Assisting Recurring Cultural Diversity Events), Visiting Scholars @ Simmons Hall. William R. and Betsey P. Leitch Endowment, Council for the Arts at MIT.

**6:00 p.m. – "Crossing The Blvd: Strangers, Neighbors, Aliens In A New America."** Lecture/Performance Reflecting Immigrants of America. Free. Room: La Sala de Puerto Rico, Straton Student Center, 2nd floor, 84 Mass Ave. Sponsor: Committee on Campus Race Relations.

**6:03 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Weekly meetings.** Regular meeting of the core group at muddy charles. Free. Room: Muddy Charles. Sponsor: Techlink.

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study.** Come join us for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship! We are currently studying the book of Ephesians. Free. Room: NW86-560. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

**7:00 p.m. – poetry@MIT: Michael Franco.** Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies.

**7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Chess Club Meeting.** A prominent player of the club will talk about some ideas in the opening. Then it will be designated time for play! Free. Room: Student Center, PDR 1&2. Sponsor: Chess Club.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – MIT Concert Band Rehearsal.** The Concert Band, a student-run performance group, rehearses twice per week. We welcome students of all levels of musical experience. Free. Room: W20-3rd Floor, 20 Chimneys. Sponsor: Association of Student Activities, Concert Band.

MIT - HARVARD - BU - SUFFOLK - NEU - BC

# CARNIVAL 2004

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3rd**  
**10:00 pm - 2:00 am**

**@ THE MATRIX**

**275 TREMONT ST ~ BOSTON**

**LIVE 6-PIECE SAMBA BAND:**  
**"BANDA PONTO COM"**

**\$15**  
**21+ (ID required)**

**TICKETS SOLD AT THE STUDENT CENTER**  
**MARCH 2-3**

**FOR MORE INFO: <http://web.mit.edu/brazil>**  
**or [carnaval2004@mit.edu](mailto:carnaval2004@mit.edu)**

Do you have what it takes  
to move the needle?

Then we need to talk.



Cross Country Automotive Services, located in Medford, MA, is a medium-sized, privately owned company that is poised for growth! Our clients include more than 50% of the automotive brands, top property & casualty insurance companies, and other industry leading organizations.

Through our client relationships, our private-label services extend to over 40 million consumers.

We are looking for individuals for summer internships who will directly impact the growth of the organization.

Look for us on campus in Spring '04 or email your resume to [mba@crosscountry-auto.com](mailto:mba@crosscountry-auto.com).



# MIT, Chi Phi To Plan Wed. Mun Memorial

Mun, from Page 1

investigating how he entered the water," Procopio said. Following the official confirmation, he said, they plan to "go back and see if we can put some pieces of the puzzle together."

### Note found on Mun's computer

The *Boston Herald* reported in December that Mun's father, Kyung Mun of Kirksville, Missouri, said "based on the note he left in his computer, he seemed to be depressed, and said goodbye."

"I believe that there was something in his computer," said John DiFava, director of Security and Campus Police Services, "indicating that he was sad."

Ang said that Mun "was in his normal demeanor" in the days before he went missing. He said he was sure Mun was not suffering from too much stress and "did not have any negative feelings towards MIT."

### Memorial on Wed. at 8 p.m.

Ang said Chi Phi is planning a

memorial service for Mun this Wednesday at 8 p.m.

He said that the specific location had not been finalized yet, but those under consideration are on MIT's campus.

Ang said that Mun's family will be in attendance, and that the plans for the memorial may include a slide show of pictures, a performance by the Korean drum group in which Mun participated, and the throwing of roses into the Charles River.

### Death marks sad day for MIT

"The horrible uncertainty that we have all felt regarding Daniel Mun has ended with the outcome we most feared," said MIT President Charles M. Vest in a statement. "I join his family and friends in mourning the loss of this fine young man."

"I encourage any among us who feel the need for advice and comfort to contact MIT Medical, or talk with counseling deans or housemasters," Vest said.

"We're not going to forget him in our memories," Ang said.

## Primary Poll Locations

### MIT Residence Halls and Living Groups

### Polling Location

Alpha Delta Phi (ADP)  
Random Hall  
Women's Independent Living Group (WILG)  
Zeta Psi (ZP)

Salvation Army Headquarters,  
402 Mass. Avenue

Alpha Tau Omega (ATO)  
Ashdown House  
Baker House  
Bexley Hall  
Burton-Connor House  
Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE)  
East Campus  
Eastgate  
Edgerton House  
Green Hall  
Kappa Sigma  
MacGregor House  
McCormick Hall  
New House  
Next House  
Number Six Club/Delta Psi  
NW30 Residence  
Phi Beta Epsilon (PBE)  
Senior House  
Simmons Hall  
Tang Residence Hall  
Theta Delta Chi (TDC)  
Westgate

MIT Kresge Auditorium

pika  
Sidney and Pacific Residence

3 Morse School,  
40 Granite Street

## Emerging Technology Center 3



Wet Labs • 800 - 1,600 SF  
Financing Available • Modified to Suit



Now in Medford!



- Suites are built out and include benchwork, utility distribution and exhaust and make-up air systems.
- Expansion space guarantee ensures that your firm's growth will be accommodated, allowing you to concentrate on your business.

Join these firms with MIT backgrounds:

- Biotrove
- Lilliputian
- GenoMems
- BioProcessors
- Boston Microsystems
- Natural Pharmaceuticals

Cummings Properties

781-932-7024  
[cummings.com](http://cummings.com)

Beverly • Burlington • Medford • Somerville • Stoneham • Sudbury • Wakefield • Wilmington • Woburn

**Times are tough. But for some they're tougher than others.**

Last year, your contributions helped 37,000 recovering alcohol and drug abusers. This year, your help will be needed more than ever.

**United Way**  
of Massachusetts Bay

# ASA Temporarily Rerecognizes Counterpoint Through March

By Michael E. Rolish  
STAFF REPORTER

Counterpoint, a joint MIT-Wellesley application, has been granted a period of suspended recognition until April 1. It had been derecognized by the Association of Student Activities on Feb. 12 for failing to meet the 50 percent MIT membership requirement.

During this period, Counterpoint will not have access to its financial account, which is being maintained by the Student Activities Finance Office.

Following the ASA executive board's decision to derecognize the publication, Counterpoint submitted a written appeal for the ASA's Feb. 26 meeting.

ASA Treasurer Jason B. Alonso '04 said that in the appeal, Counterpoint had submitted a list of its members, which included 33 Wellesley members and 40 MIT members. Many of the MIT members were faculty and alumni, not MIT students.

After the latter meeting, ASA President Kathryn M. Walter '05 sent an e-mail to the Counterpoint officers which said, "On the question of fact that you are in violation of the 5/50 clause, we have found that our original conclusion was correct — you are in violation."

The 5/50 clause requires that recognized groups have five MIT students and be composed of at least 50 percent MIT students, according to the ASA Web site. Alonso mentioned that the updated list of Counterpoint members still did not meet this standard.

Recognition gives student groups privileges such as office space and funding.

## Changes required for recognition

Walter's e-mail said that the derecognition was being suspended until April first because the ASA "did not properly notify [Counterpoint] of the derecognition decision."

Alonso said that he had accidentally told Counterpoint on Feb. 22 that the derecognition would be effective immediately when in fact the ASA

notifies student groups of their derecognition 30 days in advance.

However, Walter said that "If not all ASA recognition requirements are met by" June first, Counterpoint will be derecognized."

Under rules agreed to by the ASA, the Undergraduate Association, and the Graduate Student Council, Counterpoint can appeal to the interim joint appellate board for ASA matters.

In an e-mail statement sent to The Tech, Brian K. Dunagan G, MIT Editor in Chief for Counterpoint, said, "Counterpoint plans to work with the ASA executive board on any issues it still sees and resolve them by the specified date." Dunagan declined further comment for this article.

## Wellesley lacks similar rules

Unlike MIT, Wellesley does not have student makeup requirements for its groups. "There are no rules on our side as far as composition of a student group," said Lauren Fleischer, a Wellesley senior and chair of the Stu-

dent Organizations and Funding Committee of Wellesley College Government.

"It is understood that groups like Counterpoint have multiple student members from other colleges, and it is therefore expected that the organization will receive partial funding from the other colleges," Fleischer said. "Other than that, there are no guidelines or requirements at this time that would cut funding from an organization based on its membership," she said.

"Our current policy is somewhat vague, but allows the committee to allocate an amount to an organization like Counterpoint based on provided estimates of the funding they will receive from MIT and the overall funding they will need to operate," she said.

**Join Americas #1 Student Travel Operator**  
Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas, and Florida  
Sell Trips, Earn Cash and Go Free!  
Call for group discounts.

For more information, contact STA Travel at 617-225-2555  
1-800-648-4849 / www.statravel.com



**You are invited to:**  
**20th Annual ENTREPRENEURSHIP Conference at Harvard Business School**

Co-Sponsored by the MIT Sloan Entrepreneurship Club

featured **Friday March 5, 2004**  
keynotes: David Neeleman, CEO of JetBlue  
Bill Coleman, Founder of BEA Systems  
Stelios Haji-Ioannou, Founder of easyJet  
Terry Jones, CEO, Travelocity

**Over 70 speakers exploring themes including:**

- Taking the Plunge
- Growth Areas in Consumer/Retail
- Building the Right Team
- Emerging Areas in Technology
- Emerging Trends in Healthcare / Life Sciences
- Intellectual Property and Legal Issues
- Work/Life Tradeoffs in Entrepreneurship
- Financing Your Venture
- Going to Market
- Search Funds

**Plus — B-Plan Contest, Career Fair, Lunch, Networking Opps & Entrepreneurial Idol: Battle of the Business Plan**  
(Open to all conference participants — win up to \$5,000!)

Register now at: [www.hbseconference.com](http://www.hbseconference.com)  
Registration fee: \$35 student, \$50 non-student participants

SPONSORS:  
Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault      General Catalyst Partners



**New Master's and Ph.D. Programs Affiliated with the University of Chicago**



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.

We are now accepting applications for programs leading to Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science. Located on the University of Chicago campus, our students will be able to cross-register for University of Chicago courses. This is a new program and generous scholarships are available in the Master's program for the first few years while the program is being established. Ph.D. students receive full support without teaching requirements. The Ph.D. program is highly selective—only a small number of positions are available.

For our On-Line Application, further information, or to contact us, please refer to our website: <http://tti-c.org>

Equal Opportunity Institute

**Royal Bengal (India)**  
Boston's only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

313 Mass. Ave., Cambridge  
(617) 491-1988  
T: Red Line, Bus #1 — Central Square

Open Daily Except Monday  
11:30 am — 11:30 pm  
Lunch Buffet \$5.95  
Reasonably Priced Dinners

Unique Bengali fish dishes include  
Paabda maachher jhol, Rui maachher kalia, Moehar gauto, Shorshe Ilish

Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order.  
15% Discount on \$30 (or more) order with MIT ID.

**Tommy Doyle's Irish Pub and Restaurant**

One Kendall Square  
In front of Kendall Cinema

25% Off All Food Purchases with MIT I.D.

617-225-0888



You're at a greater risk of getting skin cancer if your hair is blonde or red.

(Assuming your hair is really blonde or red.)  
Fair skin, light eyes and a tendency to burn in the sun, also put you at a higher risk. So, examine your skin regularly. If you find anything unusual, see your dermatologist.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY  
For more information, call 1-888-402-4DERM or visit [www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

**www.BostonInsurance.com**

Online Auto, Home and Renter's Insurance Rates

**Vellucci Insurance Agency, Inc.**

657 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02141  
Tel: 617-492-4150

FLORIDA ONLY \$69 one way  
MEXICO/CARIBBEAN \$125  
Each way all taxes included  
EUROPE \$169, one-way (+ tax)

Book online  
**www.airtech.com**  
Or 212-219-7000

**STUDENT TRAVEL & BEYOND**

Cheap Fares? Budget Hotels?  
Advisors Who Get It?

This ain't your parents' travel agency... it's yours.

London.....\$245  
Rome.....\$245  
Amsterdam.....\$245  
Brussels.....\$245

**Miami** From \$740  
» 6 nights

**Vegas** From \$646  
» 6 nights

Fare is round trip from Boston and prices are per person. Subject to change and availability. Package accommodations based on double occupancy. Tax not included. Restrictions and Blackouts apply. Fares are valid for students and youth under 26.

**BOOK IT BEFORE THE THRILL IS GONE.**

**STA TRAVEL**  
[www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com)

W20-024 Stratton Student Ctr.  
**(617) 225.2555**

ONLINE >> ON THE PHONE >> ON CAMPUS >> ON THE STREET



**SPERM DONORS NEEDED**

California Cryobank, the world's leading reproductive tissue bank, is looking for healthy males, in college or with a college degree, to become a part of our anonymous sperm donor program. As a donor you will be compensated up to \$900 per month. In addition you will:

- receive a free comprehensive health and genetic screening.
- experience a minimal time commitment with flexible hours.
- help infertile couples realize their dreams of parenthood.

For more information or to see if you qualify call 1-800-231-3373 ext. 41 or visit us on the web at [www.cryobankdonors.com](http://www.cryobankdonors.com).

**CALIFORNIA CRYOBANK, INC.**  
REPRODUCTIVE TISSUE SERVICES

1-800-231-3373 Ext. 41  
[www.cryobankdonors.com](http://www.cryobankdonors.com)

**Solution to Crossword**  
from page 13

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

# Concerns Raised Over Ringcomm Selection Process

Ring, from Page 1

## Ring design process scrutinized

"The decision we had to make in the end was based on the personal interest of members of the committee, the mission of the committee, and thinking about the integrity of what the ring is supposed to mean," said Class of 2006 President Raphael Farzan-Kashini '06, who also served as a member of the ring committee.

Farzan-Kashini said that changing the ring would make the ring premiere an opportunity for everyone to look at the ring and change whatever they did not like about it. "The ring would lose its integrity that way. I just think it's traditional. That's why the ring premier is so powerful," he said.

Stanway said that while he thinks that the ring premiere should still be the time when the ring is presented to the class, the class should be allowed to make decisions beforehand regarding controversial details of the ring. He said he feels that the general structure of the ring-design procedure should remain the same.

## Committee selection questioned

Students raised concerns regarding the composition of the ring committee and its selection process because of the presence of twin stars on the ring's bezel and shank.

Four of the ring committee members, Tania D. Das '06, Valerie Y. Kuo '06, Lucy Y. Li '06, and Wey-Jiun Lin '06 are affiliated with the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Class of 2006 Vice President Brendan J. Smith '06 said that at the time of the selection process, only two of the members were affiliated with the sorority, and the other two pledged during the year.

Of the ten committee members, eight are affiliated with either a fraternity or a sorority.

"I thought it was odd that there were that many people that were affiliated and that they didn't realize that it would be controversial" to

# Ring Committee's Response

Dear Class of 2006,

It has been an honor and a privilege to design the 2006 Brass Rat. This year's Ring Committee worked with incredible devotion since September. Our goal was to create a ring that embodies our class's unity and showcases important events that have occurred during our time at MIT. Every symbol that was seen on the ring at the Ring Premiere was carefully thought out and discussed, sometimes for hours or days, before the entire committee agreed to eternalize it as a part of our class ring.

We embarked on this mission with the knowledge that no matter how hard we worked to represent every student's interest, no symbol would satisfy every student in our class. The diversity of our class is what makes it great, but it also makes it impossible to find one representation that fits everyone. Thank you for all the positive responses that you have given us. Hearing from satisfied members of the class is gratifying as it reflects that we have accomplished a very difficult task. As ordering period continues, we are proud that hundreds of you are partaking in the age-old tradition of the MIT Brass Rat.

We appreciate the feedback that we have received from the class since Premiere, both positive and negative. Many of you have expressed valid concerns. However, it must be considered that Ring Premiere is the unveiling of the final ring design, a design which was finished before Thanksgiving and into which was put an enormous amount of thought and energy, while keeping in mind possible concerns.

One thing that the committee agreed should be represented on the ring was the policy change by MIT that all freshmen, whether affiliated or not, would live on campus. Changes in Rush have been reflected on past rings, such as 2005, which included a Rush gravestone on the class shank. In our symbol, we hoped to reflect how the policy change affected all the members of our class, and we realized that it did so by changing

who we lived with during our freshman year. By forcing affiliated freshmen to live on campus, the new Rush policy allowed our class to be united for an entire year, unlike any other class before us. As a committee, we felt that the policy change affected our whole class to a great degree and needed to be symbolized on the ring.

Our next task was to decide what symbol would best represent affiliated and non-affiliated members of our class living together in Cambridge. The natural choice was to add a Greek symbol to dorm row on the Cambridge skyline, and we decided that the most-recognizable Greek symbol is Greek letters. We decided to place two letters on the skyline because they seemed more aesthetically pleasing than one or three letters.

Choosing the letters to put on the skyline was no simple task. We put a lot of effort into deciding how this should be done, and as a diverse committee we decided on the following method. Since the Brass Rat represents MIT, we knew we wanted to put the letters on the ring that appear most frequently in the names of MIT's Greek organizations. (We included fraternities, sororities, independent living groups, and national panhellenic groups.) We counted up the letters that appear in the organizations' names, finding that phi occurred 17 times and alpha 11 times. However, these two letters together spell Alpha Phi, and since our goal was not to represent one particular living group, we rejected this combination. The next most frequent letters are theta and sigma each appearing 10 times. The combination of phi and sigma was also rejected because Phi Sig, like Alpha Phi, refers to a specific organization. A count with only residential fraternities, sororities and independent living groups showed that phi still had the majority with 12, and theta, alpha, and delta all tied for second with 8. The same reasons as above can be applied to delta since the common name on campus for Phi Delta Theta is Phi Deltas.

After much discussion the committee finally

settled on phi and theta. It was the intent of the committee, and the purpose of the selection process to make sure these letters do not refer to particular Greek organizations. They were certainly not chosen to honor certain organizations and offend others. As a committee, we voted unanimously that phi and theta were as neutral a choice for the Greek letters as any other pair of Greek letters, and more representative of MIT than any other pair we could have chosen.

The dissatisfaction of a portion of the class with this aspect of the ring brought the Ring Committee together to discuss the implications of changing the ring design. The concerns of those who submitted negative feedback were considered and the opinions of the students were taken into account. However, we realized that changing the ring design even slightly would set a very poor precedent for ring committees of the future. No class should believe that Ring Premiere is a time to submit ideas for the Brass Rat – the class's ideas were taken into account during the design period in the fall, and the full responsibility of designing the ring was given to a committee that was appointed by representatives of the class. By making a change to the ring after the design has been premiered we make the already-daunting task of future ring committees much more difficult. In addition, changing the ring would deliver a different product than promised to those who have already ordered their rings.

We appreciate ArtCarved's recent attempts to work with us on possibly making changes to the design, but it is the Ring Committee's final decision not to change the 2006 Brass Rat, regardless of whether or not it is a feasible option, for reasons listed above.

Thank you for all of your feedback, we look forward to seeing you at Top of the Hub!

Sincerely,

The 2006 Ring Committee

put the Greek letters on the skyline, said Stanway.

Questions regarding disparities in living group representation were also raised last week, as there were no committee members from any of Bexley Hall, East Campus, Ran-

dom Hall, Senior House, or MacGregor.

Smith said that one committee member, Meng Mao '06, lived at East Campus when he was chosen, but then later moved to Zeta Psi.

He said that overall, very few

applications were received from from East Campus, Random Hall, Bexley Hall, and Senior House.

The selection process "took probably 50 hours, including interviews," said Smith. "It was a little much to ask us to go seek people

out and get more applications."

"We looked for people who would work well together," said Farzan-Kashani. "We did our best to diversify. I feel like we did a good job of representing different parts of campus," he said.



SYLVIA YANG—THE TECH

Professor Farhi tells the story about the revelation that occurred when fasting from latkes in the second annual Latke vs. Hamentashen Debate. Six professors participated in the "intellectual" debate to argue whether latkes and hamentashens were better.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Martin Ramos G trips Cemal Akcaba G in the A league intramural soccer finals. For the second consecutive year, the Latinos Futbol Club played Besinamo (Turkish Student Association) for the title. Despite beating the Latinos 3-0 earlier in the season and dominating most of the game, Besinamo were unable to get ahead. The game went into overtime, and the Latinos edged out a victory in the seventh round of penalty kicks.

# Zuber Talks to *Tech* About Space Exploitation Goals

By Joia Ramchandani

MIT Professor Maria Zuber was appointed about a month ago to the Presidential Commission on the Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy. The nine-member commission has the task of advising NASA on the long-term implementation of President George W. Bush's space exploration initiative.

Bush's vision for the future of

the space program, announced on Jan. 14, includes the completion of American work on the International Space Station by 2010, re-focused research on safety in space missions, expansion of manned exploration of space, and an extended human presence on the moon as a precursor to manned missions to Mars and beyond, according to a fact sheet released by the White House.

Zuber said that the role of the

commission is not to question the administration's goals for space exploration, but rather to start a national dialogue about the future of the nation's space program.

Ultimately, Zuber said, the commission's duty will be to synthesize feedback they receive from both advocates and critics of the initiative in the interest of developing an implementation strategy that will appeal to a broad spectrum of groups.

## Many concerns to be addressed

Critics of the newly-announced program have voiced dissent regarding the retirement of the Hubble space telescope, which has been a huge source data in microgravity-based research.

Another point of concern has been the billion dollar budget increase NASA will require to carry out the space program; opponents of the initiative argue that these federal funds would be better spent on domestic programs, such as healthcare.

Zuber said "investing another billion dollars in healthcare [is not the way] to make the problem go away." She said that the future of healthcare across the nation hinges upon educating and inspiring America's youth as well as on maintaining the country's competitive edge for knowledge and discovery.

Zuber also said that a large portion of the resources for the program are to be derived from the reallocation of funds and brainpower within NASA.

In addition to responding to the critics of the space initiative, the commission would look back and determine why similar programs have been unsuccessful in the past, Zuber said.

She said that she feels that since the Kennedy administration, space exploration proposals have lacked a unifying vision that has the power, appeal, and organization to span beyond a single administration and bridge separate parties.

Zuber said that in order for the program to be sustainable, "it can't be President Bush's space plan, it has to be America's space plan." She forecasts that the program, if successful, will extend through as many as ten presidential administrations.

## Changes in store, Zuber says

Zuber said that the commission will need to consider making some fundamental cultural changes to the space exploration program.

Up until now, she said, there has been no concerted effort to combine robotic and manned mission efforts

under the umbrella of one program. Uniting the scientific and technological efforts on both fronts will optimize the space exploration process, she said.

To be truly successful, Zuber noted the American space initiative also has to address the cultural challenge of integrating the international community into the space initiative, while also balancing the importance of national security.

The commission is in the position of defining the involvement of private companies in the space initiative. Along these lines, Zuber said that "there is never going to be a profit in this, at least not in our lifetime. This is not a money-making operation."

However, the private community could stand to gain from the technological innovations made during the course of the space program. In the past, many medical devices, such as pacemakers and MRI/CAT scans, have stemmed from technology initially developed for space exploration.

When asked to comment on the prospect of the newly launched space program resulting in similar benefits, Zuber said that, at this early stage, it is hard to foresee the broad spectrum of gains that will come out of the space program.

## High expectations for exploration

Zuber expects that the revamped space initiative would motivate young people to move toward scientific and technical fields.

Zuber also said that a huge advantage of the nation's renewed space exploration will be the intellectual capital that will enable the United States to remain at the forefront of science and technology and to maintain our "preeminence in the world."

"This is a lofty and grand vision. Make no mistake about it. This is as big as it gets," Zuber said. She said that in her mind, the greatest measure of the program's success will be when "man on mars" appears on the "ten most important things that happened in the world" list.

# Subsidy Among Changes for Grads

Insurance, from Page 1

cerned about the quality of [graduate students'] lives."

R. Erich Caulfield G, the president of the GSC, said "graduate students are feeling the pinch," and this is one of the many initiatives that the GSC is making in order to relieve the financial strain on graduate students.

## Faculty, institute to absorb cost

The majority of the cost of the health insurance subsidy will be absorbed by the faculty and the Institute. According to the GSC newsletter, next year, the faculty will pay 55 percent — rather than the previously planned 50 percent — of the tuition for graduate students with research assistantships. In exchange for the increased tuition coverage, the Institute will cover the health insurance expenses of all students with assistantships.

The effect of the cost of the subsidy to the Institute and faculty is unclear. Brown said that he anticipates a growth in research money to cover the additional cost of graduate students, but added that he does not expect the growth to be spread evenly across the departments. Brown said that the Institute is trying to give departments "as much lead time as possible on changes in rate structures," in order to allow the departments to make adjustments in the number of students they admit.

According to the GSC newsletter, departments will have the option of varying stipend levels between -10 percent and +15 percent, although the institute has recommended no change to the stipend level.

Arthur C. Smith, professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science said, "I don't think [the health insurance subsidy] is going to have a major effect" on the number of graduate students

the EECS department admits in the future. Although they finished admissions before learning about the policy, "it would not have had an impact" on the number of students they admitted, Smith said. They admitted 173 out of 2,475 applicants, seven more than the department was aiming for, he said.

## Family insurance reduced

Health insurance costs for families will be reduced, but not fully eliminated, by the new plan. Families will see a deduction in their insurance rates equal to the amount an individual student would pay. For example, using the rates from the 2003-2004 academic year, students with families would have about a \$1440 deduction in the family's insurance rate. The current rates are \$2,688 for a student and children, \$4,992 for a student and spouse, and \$6,240 for a student, spouse, and children.

Brown said that he is "very concerned about the cost of health care [for] students with partners and with children," but, he added, there is "no current plan to differentially subsidize that group."

Colbert said that helping families is "on our agenda," and the current plan is just a start.

Caulfield said that the GSC plans to continue working with MIT Medical to find ways to help families.

## Subsidy propelled by rate hike

Colbert said that the health insurance subsidy was "certainly on my agenda for a long time," but that last year's 60 percent increase in MIT's Extended Hospital Insurance rates "gave extra emergency in the discussion."

Caulfield said that the GSC began looking at specific solutions to the rising costs of health insurance in fall of 2003. He said the GSC looked at many options, including increasing the stipend of

graduate students and a partial or full health insurance subsidy.

The full subsidy costs the faculty less money than a stipend increase of the same magnitude would because the standard 60 percent Facilities and Administrative overhead on stipends does not apply to the insurance subsidy.

## Subsidy part of larger effort

The health insurance subsidy is one of the many changes being made by the institute to reduce the cost of living for graduate students. Another change being implemented next year is a reduction in the rise of on-campus rents, now increasing 3.7 percent compared with the planned 5.2 percent.

Although the health insurance subsidy is only guaranteed for next year, "I don't think that students should expect to pay health insurance again," Caulfield said. But, he added, "everything is in the realm of possibility."

Brown said that he "expects, except for a large change that can't be anticipated, this plan will continue."

## COLAB instrumental in change

Caulfield said that the GSC cost of living advisory board, a group made up of administrators and the GSC, has been instrumental in passing the health insurance subsidy and reducing the rise in rent rates. COLAB was formed last July in order to address the rising cost of living for graduate students at MIT.

Both the students and administrators are pleased with the health insurance subsidy. "I think it's really a wonderful change. It signals our support [for] students," Colbert said.

Caulfield said that he is "very happy that the institute has recognized this need for graduate students and made this very important step towards improving graduate student life, but there is still work to be done."



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Anjuli J. Willmer '07 adorns Charles C. Val's '06 face in preparation for their intramural soccer semifinals match against the Aero-Astro Department. The entire Bexley Hall team, inspired by the movie "Braveheart," all sported blue war paint. The team went on to the finals and won the B+ level championship.

## UA and Class Council Election Candidates

### UA President / VP

David Smith  
and Noelle Kanaga  
Harel Williams  
and Phillip Vasquez

### 2006 Treasurer

Clarence Lee

### 2006 Secretary

Amy Lam

### 2005 President

Dexter Ang  
Rohit Gupta  
Eston Kimani

### 2006 Social Chairs

Nina Debenedictis  
and Leslie Kao  
Karen Hunter  
and Jill Konowich  
Jameel Khalfan  
and Zain Gulamali

### 2005 Vice President

Arthur Mak  
Jorge Noble  
John Velasco

### 2007 President

Ovid Amadi

### 2005 Treasurer

Haiming Sun

### 2007 Vice President

Melvin Makhni  
Elizabeth Rosenblatt

### 2005 Secretary

Alexis Desieno  
Nicholas Chun

### 2007 Secretary

Shilpa Joshi

### 2005 Social Chairs

Jeff Hsu  
and Lauren Kai

### 2007 Treasurer

Ray Wu

### 2005 Publicity Chairs

Rina Patel  
and Charlene Huang

### 2007 Social Chairs

Christine Nee  
and Ji Eun Park  
Joy Liang  
and Sharmeen Browarek  
Charlene Shih  
and Vivek Shah  
Roland Tung  
and Shuo Song  
Grace Lo  
and Susah Shin

## SPORTS

## Women's Fencing Crowned New England Champions

By Priscilla del Castillo  
TEAM MEMBER

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the MIT Fencing Team returned from Tufts University with the first place New England Championship trophy for the fifth straight year. Out of fifteen schools, including Boston College, University of New Hampshire, Boston University, Tufts University, and Wellesley College, MIT came out on top as the number one six-weapon team.

#### Women take first

For the fifth straight year, the womens' team placed an overall first for all three weapons combined, winning thirteen more bouts than the closest competitor. Foil tied with Sacred Heart University for first place womens' foil squad. All three

starters, Suzannah Dorfman '05, Gemma Mendel '06, and Nancy Hua '07, proceeded to the individual round of the competition. Mendel took home her second New England silver medal, while Dorfman finished as champion of womens' foil for the third time, remaining undefeated throughout the individual portion. For the second string of the competition, Tushiyah Lui '07 came in first while Grace Lin '07 followed in second.

MIT also brought home the plaque for first place womens' sabre squad. Team captain, Priscilla del Castillo '04, Shauna Jin '06, and Drew Reese '07 each placed first in their respective levels to move on to the individual round, where Reese proved herself to be the power fencer by taking second place. Womens' epee placed second as a squad, topping off MIT as the best womens' team of the day. Squad leader Lucy

Mendel '06 placed an individual third.

#### Men place third in competition

The mens' three-weapon team came in third overall with particular props to great performances by the second string competitors. Mens' sabre led the team with 23 bouts to take first as a squad. All three sabre starts, Anthony Reinen '04, Michael Pihulic '04, and William Walsh '06, competed in the individual round, where Walsh finished third. In second string, Matthew Lue '07 placed first while Brian Quattrochi '06 finished second.

Mens' epee and foil also had a great day of fencing, coming in third and fourth respectively. Squad leader Vincent Chen '05 took the bronze medal in foil. Luke Schmitt '07 won the gold medal in second string epee while Joel Sadler '06 took third.



Epeeist Trevor T. Chang '07 (right) evades a toe-touch from Adrian Martin of Brown University.



Epeeist Lucy R. Mendel '06 (right) lunges at an opponent from Vassar College.

## Wheaton Invitational Debuts MIT Sync-Swim

By Victoria K. Anderson  
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Synchronized Swimming Club made its competition debut at the Wheaton College Invitational on Feb. 28 with a strong third-place showing and a total of 69.5 points at the end of the meet. Host Wheaton was first in the total team scores with 94 points, Boston University finished second

with 88 points, and the University of Rhode Island placed fourth behind MIT with 59 points.

MIT excelled in the technical figure portion of the competition, which involved each athlete performing a prescribed set of movements and positions individually before a panel of judges. In the novice figure category, MIT's average score of 57.741 placed them well ahead of Wheaton's 55.741 to give MIT first-place in the category. Individually, Alice Wu '05 was second with 58.063, Tenley D. McHarg '04 was third with 57.979, Lesley D. Frame '04 was fourth with 57.929, and Leah C. Blasiak G was seventh with 55.409. McHarg earned the highest score from any one judge in the novice figure category, scoring two 6.5s on one of her technical figures.

In the junior figure category, MIT was also first with an average score of 67.320, which edged out second-place Wheaton's 66.928. Cilanne E. Boulet G was second with 67.937, and Victoria K. Anderson G was fourth with 66.703.

In the routine competition, MIT continued to accumulate points towards their final second-place finish. Frame, McHarg, and Wu placed third in the trio competition with a score of 62.000, while Anderson and Boulet placed fourth in the duet competition, with 67.833, just one-point behind the second- and third-place duets from Boston University. In the solo competition, Anderson scored 68.500 for third place and Boulet scored 67.000 for fourth place. In the team competition, Anderson, Blasiak, Boulet, Frame, McHarg, and Wu placed third out of five teams with a score of 68.333.

The club springs back into action March 5-6 for the East Regional Championships at the University of Rhode Island, where they will take on nine other schools and attempt to qualify several athletes for the Collegiate National Championships at the end of March in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## How the NFL Should Change

By Yong-yi Zhu  
COLUMNIST

Football might just be different for all of us in a couple of years. There have been proposed changes to many of the scheduling protocols of the NFL because of the upcoming expiration of the NFL's contracts with the television networks. The league wants to tweak some of the game times and game dates for future TV contracts. While several of the changes will never happen and many are completely absurd, a few of the proposals are quite favorable to the fans, to my surprise.

For instance, there is talk of moving Monday Night Football. I have no idea who proposed this, or what idiot would want to touch something as sacred as Monday Night, but apparently, there is interest in moving the game to a Thursday night. The general consensus is that this will not happen, because of the tradition of MNF. Monday Night started in 1971 with Keith Jackson, Howard Cosell, and Don Meredith as announcers. Through the years, it has seen the likes of O.J. Simpson, Joe Namath, Boomer Esiason, and even recently Dennis Miller as its commentators. Millions of Americans tune in to Monday Night as their weekly primetime football match up. Although ESPN has Sunday Night and occasionally Thursday Night Football, the two do not close to bearing the same meaning as MNF to football fans. Personally, I prefer a night of sports over a night of CBS programming. I'm sure many football fans would

agree with me.

Another possibility is the pushing of Sunday games to later start times. Currently, the afternoon games are at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.; they would be moved to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. I guess Paul Tagliabue, the league's commissioner, thinks we are all too lazy to get up for the 1 p.m. start time. Or perhaps he would like to have more NFL games fight for primetime programming with shows like 60 Minutes and the Simpsons. Whatever the reason, people will be forced to choose between football and dinner, at least on the east coast. From the athletes' side, I don't think they enjoy having suddenly to adapt to an entirely different schedule. After all, we often do resist change.

Another idea of the NFL is to delay the opening day of football by several weeks. From many standpoints, this appears again to contradict good reason. The reason for the delay is to allow the postseason games to contend with others shows for ratings during February sweeps. The playoffs draw a ton of people, and the NFL feels that it should take advantage of this and perhaps up the prices for the commercials even further. The Super Bowl would then consistently be in the middle of February. However, this is not the major problem that I see with pushing the start date back. What it means is that training camps will start later, which means suffering through more heat during training camp season. In addition, pushing the season back means pushing the playoffs back, so that during the holidays, we still won't have a clue as to who will be in the playoffs. Again, change can be good, but something like this seems unneces-

sary.

Finally, the only good part of the plan that I see is the proposal to add another network to the NFL family so that another station can broadcast NFL games. What that would bring to the fan base is another game or two every week and more options as to who we can to see. This will be a hit to DirecTV, because it may reduce the need for a satellite dish that grants additional options. Especially if a national network were to carry the games, it allows fans to see more of the games for free (and I know about MIT students' affinity for free things). Also, this allows more teams to be publicized, since many teams do not receive national recognition even though they may be Super Bowl worthy (see 2000 Super Bowl Champions Rams, 2002 Super Bowl Champions Patriots, and 2004 Super Bowl runner-up Panthers). Perhaps now, we won't underestimate those underdogs when they plow their way through the playoffs, because we will actually know about them beforehand.

If you are alarmed about these changes, don't be, because they will not come for some time. I do not think that the league will make the wrong decision. This isn't the league that's ignored steroids and a salary cap. In fact, the NFL has undergone great change successfully, at least in the last several years, in instant replay. I'm sure that Tagliabue will make the right calls in this case as well, doing what's best for the fans and not what's best for money purposes. I'm sure he doesn't want to be labeled a Bud Selig. But then, nobody can be as bad as Bud Selig, and that's a whole other article.