Index Theorem Wins Isadore Award

By Gireeja V. Ranade

After half an hour of vigorously explaining just the statement of the index theorem on blackboard, Professor of Mathematics Richard B. Melrose asked with a flourish, "Now doesn’t that make you want to be a mathematician?" Obviously, the answer was yes.

The index theorem, which brings together topology, geometry and analysis was discovered and proved by MIT Institute Professor Isadore M. Singer and Sir Michael Francis Atiyah of the University of Edinburgh, who on Thursday were jointly awarded the Abel Prize for 2004 by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. "One of the things we have learned from the index theorem is the unity of mathematics," Singer said.

The Abel Prize is a highly prestigious award in mathematics, and is awarded every year, starting in 2003. The index theorem "is about the possibility of solving differential equations," said the Head of the MIT Mathematics Department David A. Vogan. The theorem provides a formula to calculate the difference between the number of independent solutions and constraints of a system of differential equations, called the index of the system.

The role of the index is parallel to that of the difference in the rank of a matrix, which for matrices provides a formula to calculate the independent solutions and constraints of a system of differential equations, called the index of the system.

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STAFF METEOROLOGIST
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The chairman and vice chairman of the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks said on Monday they would ask Con- dolence Rice to testify under oath in any future questioning because of discrepancies between her statements and those made in sworn testimony by Bush’s former counterterrorism chief.

“I would like to have her testimo- ny under the penalty of perjury,” said the commission’s chairman, Thomas H. Kean, the former Republican governor of New Jersey, in comments that reflected the panel’s exasperation with the White House and Rice, the president’s national security adviser.

Rice has refused to testify in pub- lic before the commission even as she has granted numerous interviews about the commission’s investiga- tion.

The White House declined to respond to Kean’s comments.

One official who had been briefed on discussions between the White House and the commission said Monday night that a number of options were under consideration that might lead to a compromise over Rice. The official, who asked not to be named because he had not been authorized to disclose information, declined to specify the options and said nothing had yet been decided.

Rice has granted one private interview to the 10-member, biparti- san commission and has requested another. But the White House has cited executive privilege in refusing to allow her to testify in public, under oath.

That decision has led Democrats and other critics to accuse the White House of attempting to hide embarrassing information about its failure to preempt the Sept. 11 attacks.

“I think she should be under the same penalty as Richard [A.] Clarke [‘79],” Kean said in an interview, referring to the former White House counterterrorism adviser who testi- fied last week that the Bush adminis- tration had not paid sufficient atten- tion to the threat from al-Qaida before Sept. 11, 2001.

Congressional Republican leaders have said that Clarke lied under oath and requested that previous Congres- sional testimony by him be declassi- fied.

In a private interview in February with several members of the commis- sion, Rice was not required to be under oath, and panel officials said that no transcript was made of the four-hour conversation.

The commission has required all witnesses testifying at public hear- ings to be sworn in, opening them to perjury charges if they are found to be lying, while all but a handful of the hundreds of witnesses questioned behind closed doors have not been sworn.

In separate interviews, Kean and the panel’s vice chairman, Lee H. Hamilton, a former Democratic House member from Indiana, said they would continue to press for Rice to testify under oath in public.

But they said that if the White House continued to refuse to have her answer questions at a public hear- ing, any new private interviews with Rice should be conducted under new ground rules, with the national secu- rity adviser placed under oath and a transcription made.

There were signs throughout the day on Monday of a debate within the administration over whether to hold fast to the principle of not allowing White House aides to testify before Congress or to seek a deal that would allow Rice to appear before the commission.

The opposition Nationalist Party on Monday publicly dropped its demand that the Taiwan military be allowed to vote again after a dis- puted presidential election a week ago, making it nearly certain that President Chen Shui-bian will be sworn in on May 20 for another four-year term.

The stock market here soared as nine days of political turmoil appeared to have ended with the main political parties reaching an understanding on many, if not all, of the issues that have divid- ed them over the past several weeks.

A four-hour conversation just before the governor went on live television to announce his plans, creates a major legal — and political hurdle — to allow her to testify in public or to allow her to testify in public, under oath. That decision has led Democrats and other critics to accuse the White House of attempting to hide embarrassing information about its failure to prevent the Sept. 11 attacks.

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Mass. Legislature Reverses SJC Ruling, Establishes Civil Unions

By Rick Klein

The Massachusetts Legislature Monday night overruled the state's highest court and established civil unions, approving a bill sponsored by House Speaker Sal DiMasi that would create a parallel legal status for gay couples. Sunday's vote came after the Supreme Judicial Court of Appeals had confirmed its opposition to the bill, but the Legislature's decision was a significant victory for gay and lesbian rights advocates.

The vote followed the first vote in the state's history on a gay rights measure, with a 39-16 vote in the Senate and a 124-33 vote in the House. The bill was sponsored by DiMasi, who has long been a leader in the fight for gay rights in Massachusetts.

The vote was a major victory for the gay rights movement in Massachusetts, which has made significant progress in recent years. The state was the first in the nation to legalize same-sex marriage in 2004, and has since expanded its protections for gay and lesbian couples.

But the bill's approval was met with opposition from some elected officials, who argued that it was unnecessary and that it would undermine the sanctity of marriage. The state's highest court had also ruled against the bill, citing concerns about the impact on religious freedoms.

But the Legislature's decision was hailed as a historic win for the gay rights movement in Massachusetts. "This is a victory for love and equality," DiMasi said. "We are a better society because of the love and support that we give to all of our citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation."
The article on MIT winning the Putnam math competition ["MIT Takes First Place At Putnam Math Test," March 19] had several inaccuracies. Several years for MIT students mentioned in the article were incorrect because of a difference in standing and did not have an accurate date and year. The article was written by a special reporter for The Tech, who is a student at MIT, and was edited by the editorial cartoonists, who are written by individuals representing the opinion of signed members of the editorial staff. Letters to the editor are written with blood is the view of The Tech's Ombudsman, casey.rivkin@the-tech.mit.edu. The article is written to be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech's e-mail at com-
March 30, 2004

Communities across the state strapped for cash in education. In order to compensate for the scholarships, while only about three percent primarily serve the interests of the state's richest and two together (a skill which cannot necessarily come from wealthier backgrounds. Putting two most standardized tests, the MCAS tends to pass before graduating. Romney's plan ignores that the state's high System (MCAS), the test

The inclusion of “under God” makes the pledge as a stepping stone to national prominence than about genuinely improving money is nothing more than a power-hungry politician who refuses to stand up and recite the pledge elsewhere. The kid that refuses to stand up and recite the pledge will surely feel estranged from everyone else. This is exactly the kind of pressure that will compel the child in just going along with the crowd and through this, the government is undoubtedly impressing the idea of religion upon these children. Of the children are just clueless and just say the thing because the teacher said so. Then, in that case, the idea of “one nation under God” becomes embodied in their heads even if they receive no other education pertaining to religion.

Romney is nothing more than a power-hungry politician who cares more about using Massachusetts as a stepping stone to national prominence than about genuinely improving the Commonwealth. and two recent developments have cemented as a stepping stone to national prominence than about genuinely improving the Commonwealth. and two recent developments have cemented as a stepping stone to national prominence than about genuinely improving the Commonwealth.

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Another favorite argument from the other side is that it is tradition, so therefore we should just leave it alone. That is the most ludicrous reason I have ever heard. Something has always been done that way, so we should just keep on doing it the same way even if it makes no sense and is inherently unconstitutional! I do not think I even need to further discuss what this country would be like if everyone just accepted that which is disgraceful simply because it is tradition.

Another poor excuse often stated is that it is only two words. As Justice David Souter put it, it has become “so tepid, so dilute... that it should be under the constitutional radar.” But this is precisely why those two words should not be there. People do not question the phrase: they just accept it blind. In a democratic society, there is no place for blind acceptance.

The people who founded the United States of America were very clear about erecting a wall between the government and religion. The preamble of the Constitution says that government is formed by “We, the people under God.” The Constitution makes no mention of God at all except at the end, near the signatures, where it says “In the year of our Lord.” The first sentence of the First Amendment makes the government from making any laws “respecting the establishment of religion.” The oath with which presidents are sworn in, “respecting the establishment of religion.”

Another telling development has been Rom-
ARTS

ALBUM REVIEW
Pop Some Freezepop Into Your CD Player
Sprinkle Your Life With Technicolor Pixie Dust

By Chikako Sassa
silverswan
Freezepop
Archenemy Record Company
May 25, 2004

A

s homage to spring, that pitifully slight harbinger of summer, and to all
our entourage of grotesquely tinted
croissants, tulips and dahlias in their Technicolor splendor, I recommend
popping a brand new Freezepop CD into your PC. The music and the digitally
enhanced goodies will deliver a mild sugar high with no nutritional value.
Freezepop’s latest collection of electronic ear candy, “Fancy Ultra-Fresh,” still
absounds with bluppy buoyancy, but is decidedly more introspective than their pre-
vious releases in a dreamy, vulnerable sort of way. Songs of puppy-sluh love and celestial meanderings add a wistful touch. On the whole, their new collection is more
defined and nuanced than “Freezepop For-
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ner," though their debut predecessor
excelled in sheer originality and farcical
power. For example, their parodied karaoke
video of “Tenisu no Boifurendo (Tennis
Boyfriend)” achieves a hilarity that no
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Freezepop endeavors itself to local fans in Boston and around the world by virtue of their self-mockery. Any band that comes up with songs that combines the words “duct
tape” and “romance” does not take them
seriously. The trio creates odes to urban pop culture and snazzily packages their products with the help of a talented group of digital artists and programmers,

including Liz Enthusiasm, the vocalist-cum
Web site manager and Flash moviemaker.
The Duke, who wields a hand-held sequencer by Yamaha, and the Other Sean T.
Drinkwater, who mans a Roland synth,
make up the trio. Together, they explore the infinite possibilities of electron-
ics music and weave together strands of plastic gems with happy vibes. Virtually any
sound can be mixed, sampled, and juxtaposed to any other sound from varying his-
torical or cultural ori-
gins. The unexpended combinations create humor and insight into quirky human behavior.
Gameboys, and pho-
tons.

“Stakeout” is unde-
nably the cream of the crop on the album. Liz Enthusiasm sings about a buck-eyed scheme of
girl-ensures-unwrit-
ting-boy with her
charming combination of girly guile and stalk-
er attitude. The lyrics are deceptively simple, and Liz’s enthusiasm is by no means an exception-
al vocalist, but the cel-
die-like crispness of her
voice and deadpan delivery matches well with the polyphony of blippy electronics.

“Emotions & Pho-
tons” is the other mas-
terpiece, colored by the Duke’s wisftful sing-
song whisper and textured by an intricate interlacing of multiple blippy melodies,
keloidesque and resplendent. The song would provide suitable background music
for both a luxurious lull in a Sunday after-
noon and a dawning sky after a night of seri-
ouls dreaming. As I write this, sharing an Amtrak com-
partment with a group of Amish travelers,

Freezepop cannot reign in a world devoid of electricity and shiny mod-
enear the end of “That ‘70s Show” had become rock musicians.
The results probably would have been similarly gauzy on the one hand,
contrasted to the pop-folk style of Volotato, Recover had a metal-punk sound that at
times was almost indis-

Mark Pryor, lead singer for the Get Up Kids, performs. The Get Up
Kids played Axis on March 12.

Local electronic rockers Freezepop shine on their latest album, Fancy Ultra-Fresh.

that have been released, pleasing old and
new fans alike. The pace of the show was also well-balanced. Ear-busting, throbbing songs were played whenever the crowd became too mellow from the more mid-
tempo songs.

Concert review
Get Down With the Get Up Kids
The Kids Provide a Performance to Truly ’Write Home About’
By Phuong Nguyen and Xian Ke

The Get Up Kids performed a solid
set at the packed Center Stage in
East Lansdale on March 12.
The Get Up Kids, five guys from Kansas
City, MO, turned up on stage with beers in
hand ready to rock and have a fun time. Get-
ting the crowd going, they opened with
things To Write Home About,” they experi-
enced with new styles emphasizing song-
writing instead of guitar-rock, much
to the dismay of older fans. At one
point during the concert, guitarist/vocalist Jim Suptic mocked people’s unwillingness to change,
proclaiming their out-of-tune guitars as providing a “punk” sound. Their
progression in music style was evi-
dent in the set, a refreshing contrast to the monotony of the opening acts.
Surprisingly, songs from their new release were well received, but
old songs were still the highlights of the night. “I’m a Loner Dottie, A
Rebel” and a request from the audi-
ence, “Mass Pike,” were crowd
faves. Legions of adolescent and college-age boys sang their hearts
out and bounced along to lyrics with themes reminiscent of an age when
love, loss, break-ups, and music
were everything.

The Get Up Kids saved their most experimental songs to wind
down the set, playing “Is There
A Way Out,” a song about guilt
and betrayal, which had an excessively long and mellow instrumental sec-
tion. After putting the audience into a
halt, the Kids rewarded and recon-
ergized the crowd with their en-
joyable set, showcasing their
emotional range.

We get you the tickets.
You get us the review.

March 30, 2004
By Marissa Cheng

Achieve a Higher Level of Chocolate Bliss
A Comparison of Three Different Brands of Chocolate in a Flourless Chocolate Cake

Chocolat heaven is a place that many people might think they reach on a triple bypass. If you really want to go to chocolate heaven, though, you might want making the Flourless Chocolate cake from “The Cake Bible,” by Rose Levy Berenbaum. This famous, highly awarded book is designed to showcase chocolate — it has only three ingredients, chocolate, butter, and eggs (so yes, you’re going to also get cholesterol when you eat it). My latest experiment, in a continuation of my chocolate experiments, involves transforming three pounds of chocolate into this cake. The three chocolates I’ve chosen are Callebaut bittersweet, Valrhona (66 percent cacao), and Hershey’s Special Dark. Callebaut is my favorite baking chocolate, and is only $6 per pound at Whole Foods Market. Valrhona is the favorite of many pastry chefs, and I’d like to see how it compares to the Callebaut (I’m rooting for Callebaut). Hershey’s Special Dark, surprisingly, always places well in the various chocolate taste tests in “Cook’s Illustrated,” so like any one else, I’d like to know if it’s actually the best.

The cake itself is easy to make — after melting together the chocolate and butter, you make an egg foam, fold it into the chocolate mixture, and pour into the pan. Though it only takes 15 minutes to bake, it unfortunately takes four hours total. If you’re weary of few more days, and the intensity and flavor of the chocolate will deepen further (the same goes for the spics in space cakes). And the winner of the chocolate tasting: Callebaut, followed by Valrhona’s Special Dark, was slightly too sweet, and my tasters could certainly detect the chocolate on their tongues. The vanilla blind tasting. The Valrhona was slightly too bitter, because of the high cacao content. I’d like to know if it would have fared better if I had added some sugar to the batter. I found the Valrhona also to have a rather flat taste, while the Callebaut had a lot of chocolate flavor. The Callebaut was more complex than the Valrhona, while the Valrhona learned a little too much towards the vanilla flavor when you make your cake, go the extra distance to Whole Foods to get the Callebaut. You’ll find that it’s actually cheaper than the Ghirardelli baking bars in the supermarket generally $8.99 per pound, which would be my other choice. But if you want to reach chocolate heaven, go with the Callebaut.

Flourless Chocolate Cake
1 lb bittersweet chocolate
1/2 lb (2 sticks) unsalted butter
6 eggs

Preheat the oven to 425°F. Grease the sides and bottom of an 8” springform pan separately. Wrap the bottom with aluminum foil, grease it again, and lock it into the sides. This prevents water from leaking into the butter. (A 9” springform will also work.)

Chop the chocolate and butter into small pieces. Put the butter in a medium, heavy-bottomed saucepan, then put the chocolate on top. Place it over the heat to medium. If you’re not so confident, turn the heat to low; if you’re absolutely not confident, use a double boiler. Stir the chocolate and butter fairly frequently as they melt together — this prevents the chocolate from burning (and being ruined). Don’t skip this step.

When there are just a few small lumps left in the mixture, turn the heat off; the residual heat will melt any remaining lumps. Fill a large pot with an inch of water, and being the water to a simmer. Crack the eggs into a large bowl, and set over the simmering water. Beat the eggs with an electric mixer or a whisk until they’re no touch, about five minutes; the eggs will get foamy, and double in volume. Take the eggs off the water, and continue to beat until the egg foam cools, about three to five minutes.

With a rubber spatula, fold the mixture into the remaining half of the egg foam. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Put the 8” springform pan into a large pan (for a roasting pan, put the outer pan with an inch of hot water.

Bake for five minutes uncovered, then ten minutes covered with a piece of buttered foil. Resist the urge to cook the cake further (it is really done). If you think it looks too shiny on top, it is done; three minutes is enough. It doesn’t even need another minute. Cool 45 minutes, then cover and chill for at least three hours.

ART REVIEW
‘Son et Lumiére: Trading Spaces’
Experience the World in a New Light

By Xian Ke

Son et Lumiére
Tuesday–Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, Noon–8 p.m.; Friday, Noon–7 p.m. through April
List Visual Arts Center
Cambridge
Lights...Camera...Action!” One almost expects to hear those words upon enter-
ing the MIT List Visual Arts Center’s current exhibition. The title “Son et Lumiére” is said to have been coined in France, where pre-programmed colored lights projected onto a building reveal a story of the building. Though there is no narrative at the entrance, this exhibit is certainly no “Go Saxo” on the Prud-ential Center. Each of the six works combines vivid imagery and technical wizardry to stimulate the senses. The use of electronic components to create an experience is really the only thing that the six artistic endeavors represented here have in common. Yet, the aggregate result is surprisingly well-blended, as one exhibit seamlessly follows another. The entrancing sounds and images permeate the entire gallery, enhancing the exhibits. The gorgeous sounds that accompany the images and the visible gears that turn the reel create an ambiance, they are the weakest link of the entire ensemble. By her speech was delivered near-verbatim from full lecture notes that merely summarized the text. Additional photographs of people in the audience sometimesumen seemed to life, but she related few new personal anec-
dotes and avoided offering any suggestions about how the U.S. or Guatemala should have behaved differently in this moment in history. It was only after she had made a critical reaction from the audience, “Was Clinton’s apology in 1999 to the Guatemalans worth the paper it was written on?” that she palpably lived up to the first skirting the issue, pointing out the sym-
boolic importance of a statement of regret from someone who was at the time the most power-
ful man in the world, she eventually launched into a harrowing tale of the 1980’s in U.S. Central Mexico, which was incredibly generous in accepting refugees, she claims; the U.S. has not done enough. The Catalan American Tania Torres com-
gested that American attitudes towards immi-
gants are more preoccupied than repugnant; rather than reducing people to the term “illeg-
al aliens,” she suggests that America extend a heartfelt welcome to all Guatemalans, espe-
cially those who are refugees. She also suggested that America helped to sponsor war. The book is rigorously documented and sensibly told. She brings readers first through the history of the Mayans in Guatemala, detailing how they entered into a poverty of dependence on the Latino elite, a situation made even more entrenched when a CIA-sponsored coup d’état in 1954 instated a government associated with the economic and military power brokers of the society. The sit-
uation became increasingly dire for Mayan peasants. With the emergence of liberation theology in the Catholic Church and its pro-
motion of collective action around 1970, a group of these peasants merged through the rainforest to claim unclaimed land where they could establish a village, which they named Santa María Tzejá.

Manz worked with this group of people for decades in her anthropological research, and through their eyes, she describes the calamit-
tous events of the 1970s and 1980s, as Guatemala descended into war. The guerrillas, generally supported by the villagers, made isolated attacks, and in 1982 the army brutally retaliated. While the village was being destroyed, one boy watched his sister being killed. “My baby sister was crying. A soldier took out a knife and opened my little sister’s stomach and threw everything out on the ground. My sister no longer cried.”

The gravity continued. People became refugees and lost touch with their families; the village was rebuilt, but was placed under mili-

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I can’t believe I yelled at Bobby like that, just because I was jealous of Rick. And Rick... I haven’t seen that guy in WEEKS! But, after the way I got mad at him, it’s no surprise that he doesn’t want to be around me. Sigh... I pushed away the two people who care about me the most. What came over me? It’s totally unlike me to be so... EMOTIONAL...

Well, I refuse to succumb to such a stereotypical depiction of the female and I am not some weak, hysterical creature controlled by her own emotions! I am a strong, sensible woman with confidence and reason! And, as a RATIONAL human being, I am certain that I can find a SENSIBLE way to deal with whatever emotions I may have swimming around in me right now...

...like loneliness, rejection, guilt, self-doubt, sadness... uh-oh... and, um... helplessness... and heartbreak... and err... did I mention loneliness? A lot of loneliness...

Hmm. On second thought, the whole “rational”, “sensible” approach to soothing painful emotion is a bit too hard...

Time for plan B... self-indulgence.

**DECIPHERING ACADEMESE**

In the best of the author’s knowledge... = “WE WERE TOO LAZY TO DO A REAL LITERATURE SEARCH.”

“Results were found through diligent research.” = “WE PLANNED AROUND WITH IT UNTIL IT WORKED.”

“The data agreed quite well with the predicted model.” = “IF YOU TURN THE PAGE UPRIGHT DOWN AND SQUARE, IT DOESN’T LOOK TOO DIFFERENT.”

“It should be noted that...” = “OK, SO MY EXPERIMENTS WEREN’T PERFECT, ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?”

“Those results suggest that...” = “IF WE TAKE A HUDDLE IN REASONING, WE CAN GET MORE USEFUL OUT OF OUR DATA...”

“Future work will focus on...” = “YES, WE KNOW THERE IS A BIG PLAN, BUT WE PROMISE WE’LL GET TO IT SOMEDAY.”

...remains an open question.” = “WE HAVE NO CLUE EITHER.”

**Trio**

RICK VS. THE BURSA’S OFFICE NINJA: alumn.mit.edu/www/eme

by Emezie Okorafor

Not laughing yet? Then draw your own comic for The Tech!

Submit to features@tt.mit.edu

(Come on now, you know you want to...)
Miami Spring Break (And I ran...)

By Brian Loux

One of my tongue-in-cheek linten vows this year was to have a “real” spring break, this year being my last real chance to do so. My trip to Miami was an attempt to have just that. I failed. But, amidst the sun, the sand, and the anachronistic feel of the 1980s, I did get a lot of stories.

Friday

After a short drive from Ft. Lauderdale, we arrive at our Miami hotel late in the day. We decide to take it easy tonight and just soak in the scenery and warm temperatures from the cars. We aim for dinner in little Havana.

About five minutes onto the road, I realize that this plan is doomed because nobody knows where little Havana is. And so, in under four or five hours of arrival, tensions begin to rise as our crew hastily backs orders as to where to turn. This eventually leads the driver to ask for directions in a local neighborhood we stumbled into. As he talks to an older black woman about getting to little Havana, I quickly pick up on her accent and the surrounding location. We are in little Haiti. If you know your GTA: Vice City like I do, you’ll understand what happens next. I hide in my seat and pray to god. It turns out that there is no race war, pens next. I hide in my seat and pray to god. It turns out that there is no race war, the lady’s Cuban neighbor gives us proper directions. We still get lost anyway.

Saturday

Our first official carefree day at the beach. I actually make the mistake of not putting on sunscreen. This traditionally has been a problem; I occasionally forget to use sunscreen in Honolulu without repercussions. So when my friends begin to yell at me to get going, I figure I can afford to skip it for a day. For that I become the trip’s joke. I am not just red. I am red like that character in the movie “Hellboy.” My sunglasses leave me with a very well defined raccoon-like band around my eyes. All that I can do is wear sunglasses for the entire day and night, dress in red shirts so the burn blends in, and take the frequent stares and giggles from people on the street.

Saturday also marks the first day to go to clubs. It turns out, however, that one of our group members already made plans to go to the CroBar with a group of girls from McCormick Hall that also happened to journey to Miami. Billing my lip to suppress my anger, I don a nice pair of khakis and get into a cab. I flow 1500 miles to party with more MIT people? I can already see how this night is going to go.

The first confirmation that I’m in hell is a 40-year-old gentleman in a Marilyn Monroe dress welcoming us to the club. Conjuring up ways to better my situation, I suddenly realize that I have left my ID back in the hotel room, and am forced to make a 26 block dash northward.

I call up my friend once I reach the hotel. “I'm back in the room. But is it worth the trip back?” I ask.

“Bloux,” he says with a deliberate and exaggerated three-second pause, “It’s not worth it.” Knew it.

I watch the NCAA tournament until I pass out.

Sunday

Unfortunately, the sunburn sapped so much of my energy that I am not able to get out of bed until 4 p.m. On the plus side, I get to watch my NCAA bracket suffer a fate that should make me cringe all from the comfort of my hotel bed. I begin to worry that I’m slipping back into my MIT sleeping habits after that night.

While I sleep however, the turning point of the trip occurs. My friend has been fortunate enough to meet (read: be pursued by) a girl at the CroBar the night before. They exchange phone numbers and her entourage of three meet up at the beach today with everyone but myself. The original pair decide that they should all meet for dinner.

My friend now needs three wingmen. This is, of course, where I come in.

I think I do a wonderful wingman job. I make pleasant conversation, work the table, joke around politely, and praise my friend. I even share a spark with one of the girl’s friends. The only problem is my friend has lost interest in the girl he met. She is visibly depressed, and he is visibly focused on his steak. The two reluctantly fake like they are having a good time and say that we should all go to a club, which we do.

After a few minutes of sitting on the reserved beach outside the club, my friend tells me that he’s done for the night. He wants no more. Clearly, there must be some civilized, mature way to deal with this situation. He can talk to his date and part as friends, while I can still smooth things over with my date and continue on as if nothing has happened. This can be done.

We tell them we’ll be back soon. He hops into a cab, I run onto the beach and dash 36 blocks back to the hotel.

(Honestly, I probably got a good 15 miles of running done over a period of four days. Boston marathon, here we come.)

Monday

As punishment for my sins, my sunburn begins shedding. Because the sunburn is all over my body, I leave a damn dustcloud wherever I go.

While carousing the streets, I buy my only souvenir of the trip: a large Scarface poster. Nothing says Miami like Tony Montana.

...Later that night, the same friend from before tries his luck with the ladies again at a different club. I turn down another wingman offer, only to see him successfully hit on two attractive dancers with another buddy. I soon prove to be the luckier of the two, however, as another patron tries to start a fight with my friend over the girls. Poor guy just can’t win.

Tuesday

Today I declare war on Lil’ Jon, Usher, and J-Kwon. Ludacris misses the cut because he does not appear in the beginning of the song “Yeah.” You cannot go five minutes without hearing “Yeah” or “Tipsy” on one channel or another. And even if you shut your own radio off, you’ll end up next to some other car full of stupid white people nodding their heads and singing along. So you go to the beach, because you think that is a safe haven. Yet some beachfaring youth has brought a cooler full of beer and a boombox to blast the same five songs all throughout the sandy shores. You are then doublefammed by the radios from the shoreside hotels and restaurants blasting the same exact tunes in an attempt to entice beachgoers to stop on by, but all it really leads to is a giant cacophony of “Yeah ... OHH-KAYYEE!” This is how I felt when 14 of the 16 LAMP channels were devoted to the Ben Folds Five and Coldplay albums.

We head to a local casino that night and I try to best the grandmas at bingo. When that fails, I try seven card stud. When that doesn’t work, I figure I’ll just quit and let the old bastards beat me slowly through social security taxes.

Wednesday

We drive to the everglades to see the beauty of untouched wildlife, through the Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys to watch the sun play along the water, to the Florida Keys. Youth has brought a cooler full of beer and a boombox to blast the same five songs all throughout the sandy shores. You are then doublefammed by the radios from the shoreside hotels and restaurants blasting the same exact tunes in an attempt to entice beachgoers to stop on by, but all it really leads to is a giant cacophony of “Yeah ... OHH-KAYYEE!” This is how I felt when 14 of the 16 LAMP channels were devoted to the Ben Folds Five and Coldplay albums.

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Thursday

Ending the trip in a fashion truly befitting of MIT; we spend our final free hours at a combination go-kart / arcade.

And with that, I board a plane bound for colder climates with nothing to show for it but pinker skin and a 6 by 4’ poster. Sure, the book wasn’t a “yer” but I had hoped, and a lot of things could have been done better, but the only thing I regret is not partaking in the Miami tradition of building your own criminal empire. It’s spring break, man. You’re not supposed to have goals.
We all grab a lunch at a Cuban diner in the south end of Miami Beach.

Our crew braves the dangers of the Floridian riptides and heads into the Atlantic waters.

An alligator, a common sight in the Florida Everglades, edges towards our tour airboat. Our guide enticed the ‘gators to come closer with marshmallows.

A go kart races past the photographer’s crippled machine on the last glorious day spent in the Florida sunshine.

Miami’s South Beach is miles of white sand, turquoise water, pernicious rip currents and deadly jellyfish, all conveniently abutting the boardwalk, under enough sun to fry the paler of the bunch.

Our crew braves the dangers of the Floridian riptides and heads into the Atlantic waters.

We all grab a lunch at a Cuban diner in the south end of Miami Beach.
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 liable for any loss, damage, or expense incurred as a result of reliance on the information contained herein. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar page.

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

To Our Readers:

Dear reader,
The Tech is interested in hearing about feedback from which we could make the Events Calendar more useful. Please feel free to send your responses to features@tech.mit.edu. While we seek answers to the specific questions below, other comments on the section are greatly appreciated.

1. How often do you use The Tech’s Events Calendar?
• Are you more likely to use it on or for a certain day of the week? Do you search for events in advance?

2. Do you prefer The Tech’s calendar to the one on the MIT Web? Why or why not?

3. Do you look for new events that may interest you or do you look for information about an event already known to you?

4. Do you like the chronological layout or would you prefer one grouped by type of event?
The Rainbow Coffeehouse is proud to co-sponsor

Between the Lines

Negotiating South Asian LBGT Identity

A Festival of Film, Reading, and Discussion

April 1-3, 2004

MIT

Between the Lines is the first event of its kind to be organized in Massachusetts. It is an attempt to explore the diversity of South Asian LBGT creative expression and foster a debate on what constitutes South Asian LBGT identity.

Program

Truckdrivers with Chutney April 1: 6pm; Room 3-270
Lesbian and women-oriented South Asian LBGT movies and videos.

Happiness is Forever April 1: 9:30pm; Room 3-270
Fictional movie biography of gay disabled writer, Fintan Kangi.

From BomGay to LA: A Tribute to Riyad Wadia April 2: 6pm; Room 34-101
Retrospective of the late Riyad Wadia’s documentaries BomGay (India’s first gay film) and A Mirror Called Alida, accompanied by readings of recent works by India’s leading gay writer, Ria Ria and Los Angeles based novelist, Gahal Shira Challa.

Eat, Drink, Man, Woman April 2: 8pm: Loblolly Food Court, Student Center
Official Festival Dinner Reception, sponsored by Queer Asian Pacific Alliance - New England and Boston (QAPA) and the Massachusetts Asian Pacific Islanders for Health (MAPI).

Get Out of Here! April 3: 2:30pm; Room 34-101
LBGT shots on issues of coming out and dealing with one’s sexuality in a unique South Asian context, (including Sum Total, Rewriting the Script, Three, Everything, Beauty Parlor, South Asian - Happily and Gay, The Goddess Method, For Straights, Only and many more).

Negotiating a South Asian LBGT Identity April 3: 6pm; Room 34-101
Panel Discussion with festival guests of honor, Boston LBGT activists and scholars.

Goodbye...in Pink! April 3: 8pm; Room 34-101
Boston premiere of the Marathi Bombay drag film - The Pink Mirror.

MASALA Party April 3: 9pm
Final dance party, organized by Massachusetts Area South Asian Lambda Association (Boston MASALA).

Sponsors

MIT Large Event Funding (LEF), LBGT @ MIT, Program in Comparative Media Studies at MIT, MIT Department of Architecture, Audiology and Hearing Aid, MIT Program in Women’s Studies MIT Office of the Arts, MIT ESOCAL (Lesbian Gay and Lesbian Alumni), Rainbow Coffee House at MIT, MIT Committee on Campus Race Relations, SANGAM - The Indian Students Association at MIT, Massachusetts Area South Asian Lambda Association (Boston MASALA), Queen Asian Pacific Alliance - New England and Boston, Massachusetts Asian Pacific Islanders for Health, Alliance for a Secular and Democratic South Asia, and Funded in part by the Council for the Arts at MIT.

For further information visit: http://mit.edu/oms/betweenthelines/
Fowler, from Page 1

battling cancer for two months, and she was upbeat through it all."

Both an artist and an engineer

Fowler, from Page 1

battling cancer for two months, and she was upbeat through it all."

Both an artist and an engineer

Joint Program students at WHOI

Joint Program students at WHOI begin the program with a ten day sail in order for the small group of students to get to know each other.

Anna P. M. Michel G, another student in the program that year, was one of the many that met Fowler there. "Everyone immediately became quick friends with her," Michel said.

Michel went on to work with Fowler at WHOI in the Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering Department. "She always had a lot of energy ... she always had her camera and was taking pictures."

Michel also remarked that Fowler pushed her to obtain her scientific SCUBA diving certification and "really helped" her obtain it.

Michel said that she will remember Fowler for being a great engineer while having "this whole other artistic side to her ... When I go SCUBA diving, all my photographs come out blue. Hers are amazing."

Hsing said Fowler possessed an "unbelievable dignity," mentioning that "her experience was an education for everybody."

A Memorial service will be held this Saturday at Woods Hole at 2 p.m. She is survived by her parents, Dennis and Peggy Fowler.

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Ocean Photography

A Passion of Fowler

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TUESDAY
Demonstrators in support of gay marriage hold signs outside the statehouse Monday afternoon as the Massachusetts constitutional convention conducts a vote inside. The Legislature voted 105–93 in favor of an amendment banning gay marriage and introducing civil unions. The amendment must be affirmed again next year and would go to a public vote in the fall of 2006.
The theorem helps us analyze the nature of the solutions of equations involving Dirac operators, by calculating the index of the equation without actually solving it. Dirac operators are differential operators that arise in particle physics and operate on a mathematical representation of particles with spin known as spinor fields, Melrose explained. The wave function of an electron is an example of a spinor field.

It is almost impossible to solve the equations arising from applying a Dirac operator to a spinor and equating this with another spinor field, he said. In a more precise language, the index of such an equation is given by the difference between the number of independent solutions to the corresponding homogeneous equation and the number of constraints on the input function on the right hand side of the equation, Melrose said.

Atiyah and Singer gave a formula for this index based on the coefficient functions of the Dirac operator. These functions are based on the geometry and topology of the surrounding space, allowing one to calculate this index without actually solving the equation. An immediate use concerns homogeneous equations with Dirac operators. A positive index for such an equation shows that it must have a solution, Melrose said.

Applications to theoretical physics
Gauge theory, monopoles, string theory and the theory of anomalies are among the various fields where the theorem is applicable. Quantum theory and string theory do not work when there is more than one solution to certain equations, Singer said.

For example, a conformal anomaly in string theory only vanishes for a ten dimensional space, as can be seen from the index theorem. This explains why space-time is ten dimensional, Singer said, because such anomalies do not fit with current physical theory.

Singer applauded the theorem, saying that its breakthroughs will allow the next generation of mathematicians and physicists to explore new areas of research.
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MIT Hillel
PASSOVER 2004 / 5764 @ MIT

SEDER OPTIONS

ALL-HILLEL SEDER - 1st Night
Monday, April 5 7-45 p.m.
A traditional participatory seder
$25. MIT students; $35. others;
$10. if on kosher meal plan

SEDER - HOME HOSPITALITY
MIT faculty, staff, and alumni/ae welcome students to their home seders, first and second nights.
Contact Hillel by Thursday, April 1.

AEPI SEDER - 2nd Night
Tuesday, April 6
Hosted by AEPI Fraternity at their house. MIT students welcome.
Individuals should inquire as to the level of Kashrut.
Reserve with David Heifetz <dheifetz@mit.edu>.

PASSOVER MEALS

DINNERS
Thurs, April 8, 6-8pm  Sun, Apr 11, 6-8pm
Fri, Apr 9, 7pm  Mon, Apr 12, 8pm
Sat, Apr 10, 6-7pm
$17.50 students; $21.50 others. $5. if on kosher meal plan

LUNCHES
Sat, April 10, 12:30 pm
Mon, Apr 12, 12-1:30 pm
Tues, Apr 13, 12-1:30 pm
$14.50 students; $17.50 others. $5. if on kosher meal plan

RESERVATIONS POLICY!
All Passover meals and the first seder require reservations by Tues, March 30 with <koshert@mit.edu>. Payment can be with MIT meal card or check.

PASSOVER PHACTS

SPICE UP YOUR SEDER
Tuesday, March 30 7:00 pm
“The Mystical Meaning of Matza: Secrets of the Seder” – a workshop to find new & different ways to make your seder exciting! Meats at Hillel. Rabbi Ben Lanckton, instructor

CHOCOLATE SEDER
Wednesday, March 31 4:30 p.m.
Have a pre-celebration of the holiday with a sweet twist! Sponsored by PVSH at Hillel

KASHRUT
All food served at MIT. Hillel during Passover is kosher for Passover. The MIT Hillel Kitchen is under the supervision of the Vaad HaRabonim of MA.

SALE OF CHAMETZ
Want to sell your chametz? (forbidden leavened foods) Forms to transfer the sale of your chametz (via the Vaad HaRabonim of Mass.) available at Hillel.

PASSOVER FOODS prepackaged with kosher for Passover certification are available for purchase at most area supermarkets including on campus at Laverdi’s. Brokline has several Jewish grocery stores accessible by public transit.

MIT HILLEL
40 Massachusetts Avenue (MIT Bldg. W11)
Cambridge, MA 02139
617 253 2982 <hillel@mit.edu>
http://web.mit.edu/hillel/www
of Architecture curriculum at MIT, said Pendleton-Jullian. It is the final studio project for third-year graduate students before they begin their theses.

In addition, Professor Pendleton-Jullian set up a design workshop, where graduate students, not necessarily those from the studio, can “work as a team” to drive the ideas “towards a synthesis,” as well as collaborate with students from the Rhode Island School of Design. Students work individually in the studios, focusing on one particular aspect and developing it. Pendleton-Jullian explained.

She stressed that the key aspect of MIT’s involvement was the “pedagogical agenda” of the project. It “allows the studio to remain very stagnant in nature” but also allows students to address “very real” components, such as culture, security, and space, she said.

The value of doing this project in studio, she said, is that “what we can do in studio is go deeper than a professional may be able to take.”

She said only that “we’ll see what happens” after the plans have been presented to AUW. The AUW Web site states that by Fall 2004, “an RFP (Request for Proposals) will be issued for architectural services to design the buildings identified with the first phase of campus development,” with construction underway by summer 2005.

MIT promotes development

It’s an “extraordinary opportunity” for MIT students,” Pendleton-Jullian said, and is “extremely worthwhile” and “a way to give back.”

She also said that the project fits in with the research environment of MIT, by putting “all these brilliant minds together” in order to “think about the project. The architecture, like the AUW, should be “at the forefront,” she said.

“I think the project is great,” said Virginia G. Nolan G, who is part of the studio. Because it is “based on a real life project,” she said, “it forces you to be creative and anchor your creativity.”

“I think the concern of most people here is how you can share your expertise.” Nolan said of MIT’s relationship with helping development in international realms.

Nolan also said that she thinks MIT’s role in this particular project is important when many people are “so seriously repressing the rights of women” in that region.

Naveen Mohawk G, a student in the workshop who originates from Bangladesh, said that the project was personal to her and certainly “so seriously repressing the rights of women” in that region.

Security is one key issue, said Pendleton-Jullian, because while “this is about the empowerment of women,” the political climate of the area must also be considered.

“It should have security on an extra level.” She said of the university. Something she tries to emphasize is “architecture as a manifestation of cultural issues.”

Tim M. Morshead G, the Teaching Assistant for the course, said that “we are thinking a lot about what it means to be empowering” for the women. However, Nolan added that “some people would not like it to be so obvious.”

The AUW Web site says that the “campus environment will promote tolerance, recognize the particular needs of women from diverse back- grounds, and encourage community while respecting solitudes.”

Dr. Adnan Moshref PhD ’02, an architect from Chittagong, said it is positive that “MIT can play a leading role in bringing 21 st century training in leadership and management to marginal women who traditionally have not had access to quality education” and “help build the educational infrastructure of many developing countries.”

MIT “should forcefully extend its pioneering role in technology with a global vision … which may in turn have a profoundly positive impact on a world increasingly divided along ideological lines,” he said.
issue of discrimination raised in marriage debate

Gay, from Page 1

More than marriage is debated

Professor of Economics Michael J. Pioro, sees similarities in the civil rights movement in the 1960s and the rights movement for homosexuals today. "I was in the black civil rights movement," said Pioro, who is white. "I was in the south, I worked in the south," he said, and said that the barriers that faced black are different but the hate...the notion of heterosexual supremacy, exclusively was exactly what white supremacy was like in the south.

"We see it as a human rights, a civil rights issue," said Gregory D. Dennis, G, president of MIT Queer Women’s Group.

Ailen Rubanovich '04, president of GAMIT, said that GAMIT agrees with this view. "Officially, as GAMIT, we oppose any kind of restrictive amendments, we think that it’s not up to [the legislators] to write any kind of restrictions into the constitution."

Nicole L. Ackerman '06, a GAMIT officer, said that she saw similarities between the interracial marriage debate in the 1950s and same-sex marriage today. "Interracial marriage...it was the same sort of thing, well, you can still marry someone but just someone of the same race."

Benjamin R. Wagner ’05, also a GAMIT officer, said that the issue was not about marriage. "I don’t care at all about marriage," he said. "I care about discrimination."

Issue inspires LBGT activism

Thomas Robinson, program coordinator for Student Life Programs, said that he has seen a variety of reactions from lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgendered (LBGT) students about the debate, ranging from disinterest to feelings of being overwhelmed and feeling of mobilization.

Yara N. Solheim G said that the same-sex marriage has made her become more proactive in politics. "I can’t sit today until the gay marriage issue came up and that made me angry," she said.

Last week, GAMIT collected signatures for a Freedom to Marry Coalition petition and this semester, the group held a postcard campaign. Ackerman said that as a result of the campaign, close to 400 members of the MIT community sent postcards to state senators and representatives protesting a same-sex marriage ban amendment.

Robert C. Jagnow, G said he was never really officially involved in gay support groups until the same-sex marriage debate, and attended the last two constitutional convention sessions. "I really feel mobilized. A constitutional amendment is absolutely taking my rights away," he said. Other political and religious groups had a variety of reactions. "The Green party is not really in favor of gay marriage," Dennis said. "We are opposed to any constitutional amendment to limit marriage between one man and one woman."


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Adam J. Nolte, G, president of the Tech Catholic Community, said that the TCC is bound by the Catholic Church’s teachings. "While I can’t speak personally for everyone in the Catholic community as to their individual beliefs on this matter...we are bound to share our views of faith and morals with the universal church...we can’t condone homosexual marriages or unions."

Some seek marriage as statement

William A. Fregosi, a technical coordinator in music and theatre arts, is planning on marrying his partner of almost seven years this August. Although he said that he and his partner want to do this for personal reasons, he also said he has political motivations. "For political reasons, if no other, everybody should do this," Fregosi said.

Fregosi also said that he and his partner are ready to move up the date of their wedding in case the Massachusetts executive branch attempts to block gay marriages after they become legal on May 17.

Carol Matsuzaki, an assistant professor and head coach for the women’s tennis team, said that she would not rush into marriage because of the ruling. However, "It would be great if the ruling came through," she said before the legislature approved the amendment yesterday, but she and her partner "shouldn’t do something if we’re not ready for it."

Debate over more than words

According to The Boston Globe, the amendment that was approved yesterday bans same-sex marriages but establishes civil unions between two people of the same sex. Although the amendment states that civil unions will have the same rights in Massachusetts as marriages, civil unions still have limitations under federal law. According to Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), civil unions do not receive federal or public benefits, such as social security benefits, immigration sponsorship, and pension protection, states are not legally required to recognize civil unions from other states, and a couple with a civil union can not jointly file their federal taxes.

Robinson estimated that a Vermont civil union currently grants about 300 rights, while a marriage grants about 1,100 rights. The GLAD web site states: "According to a 1997 GAO report, civil marriage brings with it at least 1,049 legal protections and responsibilities from the federal government."

Robinson argues that even naming marriages between two people of the same sex something different would still be worth debating. "Even if it was just a word debate, it is still a valuable one," he said. Marriage legal in May

Even though the amendment banning same-sex marriage was approved yesterday, marriages between two people of the same sex will still become legal on May 17 of this year.

The earliest that same-sex marriages could become illegal is November of 2006. The amendment must be approved again by a majority of the legislators at the next consecutive legislative session, and if approved there a second time, the question would go to the voters. If a majority of the voters approve the amendment, then the amendment will be added to the Massachusetts Constitution.

There is a bit of ambiguity as to what will happen to couples who decide to get married after May 17 if the amendment gets final approval.

Charles P. Kindregan, Jr., a professor at Suffolk University Law School who has been teaching family law for 37 years, said that he believes the marriages would be valid even if the amendment eventually passes. "Never in the entire legal history has the legislature revoked anyone’s marriage."

The amendment "would be prospective, not retroactive," Kindregan said.

Gay Marriage Timeline

January 3, 1996: The Defense of Marriage Act is signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

November 18, 2003: The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court rules that same-sex couples have a legal right to marry under the Massachusetts Constitution.


February 11-12: Massachusetts holds its first session of constitutional convention; three amendments to ban same-sex marriage are voted down.

March 11: Second session of constitutional convention.

March 29: Third session of constitutional convention; amendment to ban same-sex marriage and establish civil unions approved.

May 17: Marriages between two people of the same sex will become legal.

2005-06: The legislature will vote on the same-sex marriage amendment, if a majority approves amendments, it will go to a popular vote on the ballot.

November 2006: The earliest that the amendment can be presented to the voters and same-sex marriage can become illegal.
SPORTS

Round Two Upsets Surprise All

By Brian Chase

By pongyi Zhu

Heartbeat. Webster defines heartbeat as "crushing grief, anguish, or distress." I guess that's a good start, but it's not enough to fully illustrate the destructive force of the emotion. When your heartbeat felt? The death of a close friend or the loss of a family member can make your heart beat. In general, losing something we love diminishes the balance of our emotions and wreak havoc on our well-being. Just think about it, when something that we feel strongly about is taken from us, our heart starts to race. There's a certain something we label with the word love, we can feel as though the whole world has left us.

Sports is something we love. Whether it be the Los Angeles Lakers, the Boston Red Sox, the Detroit Red Wings or the Indianapolis Colts, sports fans root for teams as though their lives depend on it. Often times, they are not even aware that they are watching television, the experience is so real to them. When Shaquille O'Neal slams down a dunk, when Pedro Martinez strikes out a batter, when Steve Yzerman scores a goal, when Shaquille O'Neal slams down a dunk, when Pedro Martinez strikes out a batter, when Steve Yzerman scores a goal, when... when fate has led Maryland this far. Why would we lose? When it went wide and the follow-up shot was missed, it allowed D.J. Strawberry of Maryland to drive down the court and attempt a last second shot. This is the Maryland way. This is the Maryland tradition. This is the Maryland spirit. This is the Maryland pride. This is the Maryland heartbeat. This is the Maryland heartbreak.

Heartbreak. Webster defines heartbreak as "crushing grief, anguish, or distress." I guess that's a good start, but it's not enough to fully illustrate the destructive force of the emotion. When your heartbeat felt? The death of a close friend or the loss of a family member can make your heart beat. In general, losing something we love diminishes the balance of our emotions and wreak havoc on our well-being. Just think about it, when something that we feel strongly about is taken from us, our heart starts to race. There's a certain something we label with the word love, we can feel as though the whole world has left us.

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