BU Bioterrorism Lab Earns MIT Profs' Ire

By Jenny Zhang

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

Boston University's plans to build a Biosafety Level 4 bioterror research laboratory in South End near the BU Medical center have generated strong opinions from area pundits, including MIT professors.

The Associated Press reported on April 13 that almost 135 scientists and scholars wrote a letter to Mayor Thomas Menino and the Boston City Council expressing concerns about locating such a laboratory in a densely populated area. However, the AP also reported that on this Tuesday about 330 scientists signed a statement in support of the lab.

According to the National Institutes of Health Web site, "work with dangerous and exotic agents that pose a high individual risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening disease," can take place in Biosafety Level 4 labs.

BU was awarded a $120 million grant in 2001 to build the laboratory, according to The Daily Free Press, BU's independent student newspaper.

Letter opposes construction

Signers of the letter expressing opposition to the bioterror lab included faculty from MIT, Harvard, Boston University, and Boston College in addition to other schools, the AP reported.

The letter said, "We oppose the construction of a Level 4 Biological Research Center. Research will involve work with some of the most dangerous biological organisms, viruses, and toxins ... such as anthrax, Ebola, and smallpox."

The letter warned, "there can be no guarantees that there will be no accidents that might lead to the release of deadly, air-borne pathogens through the failure of safety systems."

"This facility will have a negative impact on the quality of life in the surrounding residential neighborhood and should not be located in this densely populated area: there are 50,000 people within one mile, the letter continued.

"It closed with the request that "Boston University withdraw its plans to build this laboratory."

Area professors raise concerns

Many professors from MIT, Harvard, and other area colleges said that they were worried about the consequences of constructing the bioterror lab.

"Professor of Biology Jonathan Turmerr, Page 19

Wealth Tests MIT Marathoners

By Brian Loux

The cheers. The agony. The celebration. The two days off. One way or another, numerous MIT students took advantage of Monday's Patriot's Day holiday by being involved with the 108th Boston Marathon. While most of them lined up around the last four miles of the race to watch, others opted to run part or all of the race, or serve as a race volunteer for the day.

Adding to the race's already exhausting challenges was 80°F and above heat combined with strong gusts of wind. Boston Athletic Association media contact Jack Fleming said that medical assistance along the course took in two to three times as many runners as usual.

"It was a tough race. Coaches were telling us to throw out our goals," said Eugene J. Lim G., a registered runner with bib number 4127, "'Being the village idiot that I am. I only modified my time by five minutes instead of the 50 minutes to an hour they had advised.'"

Lim, who unoffically ran the marathon for the last two years and then qualified for the marathon this year with a time of 3:08, nonetheless decided to run for charity. He ran for Children's Hospital, specifically in memory of 11-year-old Anderson Nguyen who passed away last August after complications during a bone marrow transplant.

Lim was also honored as one of the Saccozio 26, the shoe company's program that recognizes 26 people (one for each mile) with special reasons for running.

Lim's mother came to him late in the race. "Past Heartbreak [Hill, around the 21st mile of the race],"
The Senate voted overwhelmingly on Thursday to grant victims of federal crimes a new set of rights guaranteeing their participation in legal proceedings against the accused.

The legislation, long sought by victim advocacy groups, raced through the Senate on a 96-1 vote after its supporters earlier this week devoted an extra day of debate to the effort as the Senate finished its work for the year.

The legislation adds a strong new dimension to American criminal law, giving victims of violent crimes new rights they must also be notified of public proceedings and if the offender is released must be notified of parole decisions.

Traditional rights to protection, privacy, and special victim services will also be available.

The Senate voted on Thursday to approve the legislation by a vote of 80-2 on an amendment that would create a federal victims' ombudsman, at the request of Sen. Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, the senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Senate also voted in favor of a separate amendment to add provisions that would make it easier for victims to get compensatory damages in civil court cases.

The legislation, which was deluged with letters from more than 50,000 AARP members and others, was one of the most popular and uncontroversial measures of the 109th Congress.

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Japanese Hostages Come Home To Much Criticism and Blame
By Norimitsu Onishi

The young Japanese civilians taken hostage in Iraq returned home this week, not to the warmth of a yellow-ribbon embrace but to a disapproving nation’s cold stare.

The first three hostages, including a woman who helped street children on the streets of Baghdad, first appeared on television two weeks ago as their knife-brandishing kidnappers threatened to slit their throats. A few days after their release, they landed here on Sunday, in the eye of a peculiarly Japanese storm.

“You got what you deserve!” read one hand-written sign at the airport where they landed. “You are Japan’s shame,” another wrote on the Web site of one of the former hostages. They had “caused trouble” for everybody. The government, not to be outdone, announced it would bill the former hostages $6,000 for air fare.

Beneath the surface of Japan’s ultra-sophisticated cities lie the hierarchic ties that have governed this island nation for centuries and that, at moments of crises, invariably reassert themselves. The former hostages’ transgression was to ignore a government advisory against traveling to Iraq. But their sin, in a vertical society that likes to think of itself as classless, was to defy what people call here “okami,” or, literally, “what is higher.”

Treated like criminals, the three former hostages have gone into hiding, effectively becoming prisoners inside their own homes. Dr. Satoru Saito, a psychiatrist who has examined the three former hostages twice since their return, said the stress they were enduring now was “much heavier” than what they endured during their captivity in Iraq. Asked to name their three most stressful moments, the former hostages told him, in ascending order: the moment when they were kidnapped on their way to Baghdad, the knife-wielding incident, and the moment they watched a television show the morning after their return here and realized Japan’s anger with them.

Public and Private Elite Colleges See Increase in Wealthy Attendees
By David Leonhardt

At prestigious universities around the country, more and more students from upper-income families are edging out those from the middle class, according to university data. The change is fast becoming one of the biggest issues in higher education.

More members of this year’s freshman class at the University of Michigan have parents making at least $200,000 a year than have parents making less than the national median of about $53,000, according to a survey of Michigan students. At the most selective private universities across the country, more fathers of freshmen are doctors than are hourly workers, teachers, clergy members, farmers or members of the military — combined.

Experts say the change in the student population is a result of both steep tuition increases and the phenomenal effort many wealthy parents put into preparing their children to apply to the best schools. It is easy to see here, where BMW series sedans are everywhere and students pay up to $800 a month to live off campus, enough to rent an entire house in parts of Michigan.

Some universities are starting to take action. Officials long accustomed to discussing racial diversity are instead taking steps to improve economic diversity. They say they are worried that their universities are reproducing social advantage instead of serving as an engine of mobility.

“It’s very much an issue of fundamental fairness,” Lawrence H. Summers, the president of Harvard and a former Treasury secretary, said in an interview. “An important purpose of institutions like Harvard is to give everybody a shot at the American dream.”

The University of Maryland recently said it would no longer ask students from families making less than $21,000 a year to take out loans, and instead would give them scholarships to cover tuition. Officials at Harvard, UNC, and UVA all recently announced similar, even more generous policies.

La Fête Spring Formal
Edgerton House
Saturday, May 1
9pm to 1am
Live swing band in the courtyard
DJ in the lounge
Desserts + hors d’oeuvres + drinks

Tickets: $10 for one, $15 for two
Available at Edgerton front desk and the GSC office.
More information at http://ch.mit.edu/springformal
Contact: la-fete04@mit.edu

China Reports Two Suspected Cases of the SARS Virus

The Chinese government announced Thursday that a nurse in Beijing had been hospitalized with a suspected case of SARS and that five other people had been isolated with fevers. The authorities in Hong Kong also said a second suspected SARS patient had been discovered in eastern China.

The possible reappearance of severe acute respiratory syndrome in Beijing comes just over a year after the virus first swept through the city, causing widespread panic, closing schools and forcing top leaders to admit that the government had initially covered up the presence of the disease. The scandal led to the dismissal of the Beijing mayor and China’s health minister.

The announcement is surprising because China has had no reported cases of SARS since January.

Court Restores Case Against Accused Terrorist

A federal appeals court on Thursday restored the government’s full case against Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person charged in a U.S. court with conspiring in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and allowed prosecutors to once again seek the death penalty.

At the same time, the three-judge appeals panel in Richmond, Va., backed defense lawyers in their argument that Moussaoui is entitled to testimony from captured al-Qaida terrorists who have told interrogators overseas that he had nothing to do with the plot.

The panel, drawn from members of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, ordered the trial judge in the case to work out a compromise on the issue that has long threatened to derail the case: How to grant Moussaoui access to information from the captured terrorists while preserving the government’s rights to interrogate enemy combatants without interruption during wartime.

“We reject the government’s claim that the district court exceeded its authority in granting Moussaoui access to the witnesses,” the panel wrote, referring to the trial judge, Leonie M. Brinkema of U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va. “However, we reverse the district court insofar as it held that it is not possible to craft adequate substitutions.”

Judge Roger L. Gregory said he strongly disagreed, however, with the decision to allow prosecutors to once again seek the death penalty.

“To leave open the possibility of a sentence of death given these constraints on Moussaoui’s ability to defend himself would, in my view, subvert the well-established rule that a defendant cannot be sentenced to death if the jury is precluded from considering mitigating evidence,” he wrote in a dissenting opinion.
On Feb. 24, The Tech’s arts section included a student’s first-person anonymous essay describing her rape at MIT in February 2003 (“What a Difference a Year Makes”). The account was submitted to The Tech through an intermediary, and when we published it, we did not know who the anonymous author was and did not attempt to verify the account’s major details. We should have learned her name and attempted to verify her story.

Additionally, when our publication, we conducted an inquiry in an attempt to verify as many details of her account as we could. We inter- viewed the author, whom we agreed to keep anonymous. She says that the reason the MIT and Cambridge Police have no record of the crime is because she reported it after being taken (she does not remember who brought her) to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, in a confidential sexual assault report to the Boston Police Department. The alleged rapists are currently in jail on unrelated charges, she said, and have been charged with her rape, but court records are not now avail- able because the defendants were under the age of 18 when the rape occurred, she said.

As a journalistic matter, and except for advertising, The Tech takes responsibility for all assertions of fact within its pages. That does not mean that we can or do verify every interview subject’s or guest col- umn author’s factual assertions before quoting them in the issue. We will make errors. Our opinion columnists, interview subjects, and news reporters will make mistakes. We deal with these errors, as we must, by investigating all complaints, verifying facts, and publishing correc- tions. That process is frustrated here, where state laws protecting rape victims make it impossible for us to obtain confidential sexual abuse reports and other sensitive materials on our own.

We reviewed documents given to us by the author — including what appears to be a February 2003 Boston Police report and a May 2003 medical test report — and interviewed two students who might have been able to confirm elements of the account. Unfortunately, we were not able to find an available independent confirmation of the account. We simply do not know enough to certify that the account is true or not. This is not the victim’s fault — it is ours. It was a mistake to run the piece, and we apologize to the victim and to our readers.

Letters to the Editor

Adam Love’s comic strip entitled “I Live in a Giant Bucket,” which appears in the April 16 edition of The Tech, is strongly reminiscent of the copyrighted work of animator/director Don Hertzfeldt. I suspect that Love enjoyed Hertzfeldt’s 2001 Academy Award nominated short film “Rejected,” so much so that he drew “Bucket” as a sort of tribute. However, the strip makes no mention of Hertzfeldt or his production company, Bitter Films (www.bitterfilms.com). Legal concerns aside, this is unfortunate because the work from which the strip borrows is not particularly famous and could benefit from the added pub- licity. I do hope that Love gives credit to and abides permission from the original artist the next time he submits a derivative work for publication.

Joseph Calazetta
Mark Halsey

In a recent New York Times Magazine article ["Changing All the Rules," April 4], the Bush administration’s mandated attempts to loosen environmental restrictions so that big industrial polluters could avoid having to install new pollution-reducing technology in power plants and other industrial pollution sources, as required by the Clean Air Act of 1970. Even more disturbing was the administration’s attempt to sidestep the legislative process with the enforcement of new relaxed standards that gave energy special interests significant slack, running decades of progress the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made towards forcing power plants and other big industrial polluters to work towards safer emissions. There was no mistake that the Bush environmental agenda was to tighten a relationship with energy industry heavyweights who were a financial asset in his 2000 presidential campaign. Industry special interests were to be the only beneficiaries of the Bush rollback on environmental protections. Some conservatives argued that the revised Bush energy plan would help prevent energy-supply problems such as those seen in California in 2000 and 2001, and moreover that the savings that the industry would recover from not having to install "needless" pollution control equipment would be put in the hands of the investors. None of these notions do not hold up to fact.

The energy problems of California were caused by reckless price fixing by companies such as Enron, not by thirty-year old environmental protection laws. Further, even if the industry were to distribute all the money saved from not having to follow environmental regulations among consumers, the repeal of environmental laws as sought by the Bush administration would still be unwarranted. According to a Gallup poll cited in "Changing All the Rules," a resounding 81 percent of Americans backed more stringent environmental standards for industry. Even if rolling back environmental protections would save consumers money, such action would not be in line with the will of the people. In fact, it appears to be completely against it.

The potential health risks of the Bush administration’s environmental policies would be both real and staggering. According to a fact sheet by the Environmental Working Group that has been endorsed by the American Lung Association, the Clean Air Task Force, and the Sierra Club, among others: "Measured against alternative legislative proposals — including a stronger plan developed within the administration itself — the administration’s so-called ‘Clear Skies’ bill would allow more than 100,000 additional early deaths and two million additional asthma attacks between now and 2020.

Bush has attempted to allow special energy interests to sidestep important environmental protections while consciously ignoring the potential health gains of his actions. This begs the question: if Bush is willing to let tens of thousands of Americans perish for the benefit of energy special interests, why would it be to suggest that Bush would be willing to lend our health to those sought by the Americans perish for the benefit of similar special interests?

Sadly, a year ago, I would have told any

one who suggested that the U.S. was going to war for underhanded reasons was crazy. I would have been disgusted by the mere suggestion that our president would bring this country to war for anything but the safety of our country and the protection of the world. But I now know I was mistaken.

A declassified National Intelligence Estimate from October of 2002 concluded that Saddam Hussein “appears to be drawing a line of conducting terrorist attacks with conventional or [chemical or biological weapons] against the United States, fearing that expo- sures of Iraqi involvement would provoke a U.S. response that might embolden Washington a stronger cause for making war.” While Hussein was a sick and diabolical leader, he was not a threat to the United States. He feared the United States, and for good reason. Contrary to the hype that was being thrown at the American people in the months building up to the war, Hussein was held in check by the notion that an attack on the U.S. would lead to his certain downfall.

If the war was not to make America safer, then did we enter a war that we knew would put many American lives at risk, and end the lives of many others?

The concept that, under the guise of fighting terror, we would put so many human lives at risk for the economic benefit of well connected energy and defense firms is so utterly twisted and sick that no one seems to want to say it. Luckily, we don’t have to. All we have to do is to go to the polls and vote our minds. With a $200 million war chest, Bush is going to owe even more favors than last time. Let’s to vote to get him another term so he can go on replication our health, our safety, or our lives.

Mark Halsey is a member of the class of 2004.
Clarifying Anti-Semitism And Anti-Zionism

Richard Kraus

Enemies of Israel often proclaim that they are not anti-semantic — that is, bigoted against Jews — but are only anti-Zionist. The truth or falseness of this claim depends on whether and how the long Arab-Israeli conflict may be brought to a peaceful conclusion.

One possible test for this claim would be whether those who commit acts of violence against Jews in the name, supposedly, of anti-Zionism, also committed acts of violence against Jews before the rise of political Zionism. Another test is whether acts of violence or oppression against Jews are actually anti-Zionist in their effects. For example, since the Zionist movement began with the belief that Jews were not safe in Diaspora, and therefore needed a place of refuge, acts of violence against Jews in the Diaspora that prompt them to flee to Israel are certainly anti-Jewish, but they are not anti-Zionist. If Israel’s enemies commit acts that are principally anti-Zionist and only incidentally anti-Jewish, it follows that they really are only enemies of Zionism. Conversely, if their attacks are principally anti-Jewish, and only incidentally, if at all, anti-Zionist, then it follows that they are motivated first and foremost by anti-Semitism.

In 1920, an Arab mob attacked the Jewish community of Hebron in what is today called the West Bank, killing 67 Jews and forcing the rest to flee, rendering Hebron, home to the second-holiest site in the Jewish religion, empty of Jews for the first time in centuries, as it would remain until after 1967. Significantly, this pogrom happened years before there were any Palestinian refugees or occupied territories, so it could not possibly have been motivated by those issues. Perhaps more significantly, the Hebron Jewish community was actually the heart of anti-Zionist sentiment and leadership among the Jews of the mandate. The Jews of Hebron were a centuries-old community whose most recent immigrants had come in 1811 from Gaza, fleeing a pogrom there; like many other Jews at that time, they saw Zionism as threatening to traditional Judaism. The fact, then, that it was the Palestinians who destroyed Jewish anti-Zionism in the mandate, strengthening the Zionist movement, indicates that they were motivated principally by anti-Judaism, and only incidentally by anti-Zionism.

Similar incidents occurred later on a grander scale. Following Israeli independence in 1948, almost a million Jews were forced to flee for their lives from their homes through out the Arab world. A significant number of those from what had been French Morocco went to France, but the majority of the refugees went to Israel; they and their descendants today make up approximately half of Israeli Jewry. The lynchings, riots, synagogue fire-bombings, prison camps, and other forms of violence and oppression that forested these Jews to flee, agoning as it was for them, proved vital for Israel and for Zionism. Indeed, it is doubtful that Israel could have survived without these new immigrants. A similar phenomenon may be occurring today again. The Jews of France, most of whom are of North African extraction, are now facing a wave of violence largely perpetrated by Arab immigrants in France. This wave of violence is prompting increasing numbers of French Jews to go to Israel, more still are seriously considering such a move. And while such an exodus, unprecedented from an established first-world democracy, would be painful for French Jews, and perhaps at least a minor disaster for France, it would benefit Israel and Zionism.

Israel’s enemies are in fact motivated, as this evidence shows, not merely by anti-Zionism, but by anti-Jewish bigotry. That means that those who would seek to foster peace between Israel and its enemies must address the sources of this bigotry. They must insist in particular that governments throughout the Middle East cease their constant incitement of anti-Jewish bigotry in their schools and media, and even in their religious institutions. Also, they must stop teaching their children the grotesque lie that there was no history of anti-Jewish bigotry and violence in the Middle East before the advent of Zionism. Only when there has been an honest reckoning with the past can there be genuine reconciliation.

Richard Kraus is a graduate student in the Department of Political Science.

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Richard Kraus is a graduate student in the Department of Political Science.

The Ombudsman

Nominal closure on rape account

Where’s that presidential search?

Speaking of Vest, what’s the status of the Institute’s search for a new president? According to Tech Talk, there’s a “working list of candidates” (“Presidential search narrows,” April 2, Tech Talk). But why no update on Vest’s comments? It’s unfortu-

The Ombudsman welcomes your feedback. Ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu

His opinions are his own.
You get a sixty-five on your first test and no so thrilled to be a part of this place. We call forget about that kid not too long ago who was maybe we just don't get the chance to) and we more. We don't stop to soak things in (or though we're still sitting with those same kids, things in. We got the compliment we worked a real goal. We were proud of ourselves and of every word.

weren't the smartest class either. We believed weren't the best looking class like Marilee great. It didn't matter that we probably them.

fishing for compliments; I'm hunting for some encouragement. It's that simple. I'm not world. But we don't get compliments like from the three most important people in the world — more frustrating than taking on a track but the numbered runners. This is, of runners, you do your best to squeeze right in amidst the numbered runners. You actually have a number. Y ou aren't the smartest class either. We believed weren't the best looking class like Marilee great. It didn't matter that we probably them.

When we came for CPW, we sat with all the other perfunctory and people stood around us and told us that we're great. And we felt great. It didn't matter that we probably weren't the most promising class like Martin Jones said it didn't matter that we probably we're the smartest class either. We believed every word.

In fact, we hardly get any compliments. We go to an extremely tough school, we get demoralized very quickly and we could use some encouragement. It's that simple: I'm not fishing for compliments; I'm hunting for them.

When we came for CPW, we sat with all the other perfunctory and people stood around us and told us that we're great. And we felt great. It didn't matter that we probably weren't the most promising class like Martin Jones said it didn't matter that we probably we're the smartest class either. We believed every word.

A Compliment

It May Not Be Right, But Is it Even Wrong?

A Voice from Across the Atlantic

Reality of the Situation

By Dan Scolnic

Features columnist

By Brian Loux

April 23, 2004

THE TECH Page 7

FEATURES COLUMNIST
By Dan Scolnic

At Hopkins, it's a matter of looking for the starting line. Traffic's real bad and the school buses only seem to be taking the runners who actually have a number. You thank your driver and join the seemingly large pack of people gathered in flashy athletic gear and permanent marker tattoos. Any sense of doubt diminishes after you realize you are done now; the sheer focus for the task at hand will permeate every thought you have for the rest of the day.

At Corral 21, the last official area for runners, we see a man in a blue shirt and light behind the tail end of it. Volunteers will set up roadblocks to ensure people don't jump in amidst the runners. But, in any case, nobody is supposed to be allowed on the track but the numbered runners. This is, of course, futile. Then comes the most frustrating part of the day — more frustrating than taking on a hill when your legs are on fire — the wait to start. You hear the start of the elites and the cheers as they start their run, but you must remain still for what seems like hours. Only after you have served your penance can you take one last swig of water, touch the starting line for good luck, and take off.

At 50 feet, you're taking in the cheers of the crowd and the kids that reach out to slap your hand. The runners begin to separate based on their intended pace. Just like a road, it's faster to the left and the slower to the right. Confidence is mixed with caution as you try to balance your current feel of strength with your calculations of the race. And it's stupid. We think we're average but We're only a third of the way through the race and we're just not that proud of ourselves any- though we're still sitting with those same kids, things in. We got the compliment we worked a real goal. We were proud of ourselves and of every word.

As I walked, I realized how fortunate I was to be there. The weather was warm, the sky was blue, and the grass was green. Imagine walking around forty-four acres of lush green lawns and apple orchards. While appreciating the scenery and beauty of this experience, I thought of what I would doing if I were back at MIT. Two thoughts quickly came to mind: I would either be working or worrying about work.

Before going on any further, I should clarify that I do not spend my entire day thinking about work. My life involves many other activities. For example, I am a member of a track club and I spend a lot of time walking in gardens. Cambridge is a school that demands hard work and intelligence. However, work time is for work and other times are not for work. This attitude allows excellent students to enjoy a day like today guilt-free.

If you're the type of person that is always thinking about work, I feel I take a much healthier view towards work. It is seldom to find an MIT student who can enjoy a moment without thinking about work. Those who actually want to break out of such a mentality feel they can't because everyone else keeps on working.

Even to more of an extreme, many MIT students derive a sense of fulfillment and pleasure from excess amounts of work. The stress of work is a little like addictive narcotics. Students delude themselves into thinking that unless they have two all-nighters a week, somehow they are not working enough. We live from problem set to problem set, a vicious cycle that does not break until we graduate.

Of course, this is true for everyone. It's like a bad dream. Imagine an army of young, intelligent, able-bodied students brain- washed to believe that the more excess amounts of work, the better, and your grades will improve. I grabbed the chance to enjoy today's sun- shine and walked around the immaculate lawns of this experience, I thought of what I would doing if I were back at MIT. Two thoughts quickly came to mind: I would either be working or worrying about work.

Before going on any further, I should clarify that I do not spend my entire day thinking about work. My life involves many other activities. For example, I am a member of a track club and I spend a lot of time walking in gardens. Cambridge is a school that demands hard work and intelligence. However, work time is for work and other times are not for work. This attitude allows excellent students to enjoy a day like today guilt-free.

If you're the type of person that is always thinking about work, I feel I take a much healthier view towards work. It is seldom to find an MIT student who can enjoy a moment without thinking about work. Those who actually want to break out of such a mentality feel they can't because everyone else keeps on working.

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Positive Sinking
Silly Rabbit, Pennies Can't Spell!

By Akshay Patil
aratcofactors.com

Let's make no bones about it: StartingBloc President Martin Smith certainly doesn't. “StartingBloc is unique,” he says. “This is a business self-interest;” he stated. Companies want to show they aren't evil. Universities want to make up for students missing what's taught almost exclusively in "soft" liberal arts majors like International Affairs—the full spectrum of the effects of capitalism. And students want internships to boost their chances for post-graduation. However, although this is a non-profit, it StartingBloc simply helps each party get what they want.

And what does StartingBloc want? According to its mission statement, “StartingBloc seeks to help outstanding university students what they want. It StartingBloc simply helps each party get what they want.

What's the deal?
A New Market for Self-Interest

By Ian Ybarra

Just examine our lives. From birth to death, the complications that come with more choices. Kindergartners want the biggest boxes of Crayola crayons and then spend ten minutes deciding which of the 300 colors to use. Incoming freshmen worry about the brand, color, and features of their cell phone. Newlyweds obsess over the paint color of their new house. In the end, material items only serve a function. Fitting them over is at the expense of our health and the stress is there even if you don't feel it. As to why Whole Foods sells 40

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Scratch Paper
Stressed by Toothpaste

By Tiffany Kowalskich


I expect any LaVerde's to carry much less of a toothpaste than toothbrushes and toothpastes? All I saw was clean teeth, not a test of decision-making.

Instead, America the Plentiful has brought forth a ton of choices—and stress. It's not easy getting the best bang for the buck. Colgate Total has 0.4 oz less than Crest Multi- care—and changes more.

Don't get me wrong. I think it is wonderful that there are more than 19,000 ways to customize a Starbucks coffee. No. Extra foam? Light foam? It's a coffee connoisseur's heaven. As to why Whole Foods sells 40

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Death By Zeitgeist
The Good People of the World

By Devdoot Majumdar

April 23, 2004

I don’t really take to writing splitting pieces very often, and today is no exception. It really takes a Leadership-like experience or a Sunday morning enema to get me smiling needlessly. The only benefit to being optimistic is the ability to lie to yourself better. On that note, I present to you an unsweetened account of my four-day weekend. And for kicks, I insult 25 different groups of people along the way, in case you were counting.

While marathoners found their own inner strength this glorious Patriot’s Day weekend, I found only my own personal pinnacle of depravity. I guess that’s only to be expected when all I’ve got is this near-empty bottle of cognac, this dirty room that I grudgingly cleaned, and this playlist that keeps playing songs that have since been covered or sampled by the scions of MTV cool.

But, the good people of my world are washing their cars on their lunch-breaks. “Well, the good people of the world are washing their cars on their lunch-breaks.”

Sheryl Crow song: “The good people of the world are washing their cars on their lunch-breaks.”

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When all I’ve got is this near-empty bottle of cognac, this dirty room that I grudgingly cleaned, and this playlist that keeps playing songs that have since been covered or sampled by the scions of MTV cool.

And I respect them all because at least they’re not a Leadershape-like experience or a Sunday morning enema to get me smiling needlessly. The only benefit to being optimistic is the ability to lie to yourself better.

It really takes a Leadershape-like experience or a Sunday morning enema to get me smiling needlessly. The only benefit to being optimistic is the ability to lie to yourself better.

The thing is, this entire weekend, it seems like, then play an easy game of Where’s Waldo. Remind yourself about insects and bugs and locusts and grasshoppers. Remind yourself of what an unfortunate midriff bulge looks like; then play an easy game of Where’s Waldo. Remind yourself about insects and bugs and locusts and grasshoppers.

And by this point, I was just in one of those moods. The kind of mood that inspires you to step into the Cambridgeport Saloon, if only to imagine where everyone is concealing their weapons. It’s the kind of mood that makes you want to go to Alpine Bagels and publicly urinate, if only to make it clear that you shouldn’t have to wait an hour for a small pizza. It’s the kind of mood that makes you want to start a fake Yahoo e-mail account and send Michael Moore a completely false tip, if only to waste a week of his life.

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The Punisher

The movie’s plot follows the journey of a Vietnam war veteran named Frank Castle, who, after his family is killed, becomes the Punisher—a vigilante who seeks revenge on the criminals responsible for his family’s death. The film is known for its dark and violent tone, with Castle engaging in numerous action sequences and confrontations. Despite these elements, the film also contains moments of humor and characterization, which add depth to the narrative.

The SAAS Pop Culture Show: Show Entertaining, But Lacking Authentic Culture

By Devdoot Majumdar

The South Asian American Students Culture Show (SAAS) on April 16, 10 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium featured various performances, including traditional dance and music, that were meant to reflect South Asian culture.

The show started with a dance performance of “Men In Heat,” an all-male, mostly PBE group, which entered the stage pretending to be women. It began with a sense of several aspects of Indian dance, but it was shortly followed by the high spirits of the audience, which filled Kresge as usual.

The other performance of note was “Men In Heat,” which filled Kresge as usual. The dancers, their supportive crew at Phi Beta Epsilon, and the SAAS Pop Culture Show were consistently engaging, even at its most unimpressive moments. That’s not saying there weren’t high points, only that the ebb and flow of low points was politely overlooked by the high spirits of the audience, which filled Kresge as usual.

The show’s two solid hours of dance after dance after dance, with the occasional musical interlude, was an experience, but the end of the show was a letdown. It ended with a concert of small lightbulbs incandescing. Then, there were class dances and random group dances, all of which basically took the form of a bunch of guys and girls dancing to Indian film music. It was enjoyable the first time around, and even the fifth time around, but by the end of the show, the glove just stopped fitting.

Most enjoyable were the 2004 and 2005 class dances, which were large and complex enough to induce seizures, striking the audience from any defective moments. However, a very noticeable shortcoming of several of the other dances was a basic lack of coordination and synchronization, made even more obvious when one girl would look intensely at another girl in hopes of following along. What was lacking, perhaps because there were so many acts with a number of people participating in multiple dances, is that “well-oldecd” quality of real South Asian culture kind of going about their well-choreographed dance that looked by the high spirits of the audience, which filled Kresge as usual.

One of the performances that stood out so starkly was the “Taj Mahal” dance by the SAAS, featuring a BHAT dance, which was quite rigorous and quite incomprehensible to sing a raga (Indian classical singing), it just baffled me. Both the SAAS Pop Culture Show and MIT Chamak, a troupe that skillfully managed to bring light to the utter campiness of the Western and Indian cultures, each had some key elements on Indian dance, and in doing so managed to bring a light touch to the utter campiness of Indian film dancing.

To be sure, there is a limit to the comic aspects of the conventional carnivore movie. In the words of one critic, the Marvel Film universe be made without causing confusion. Even the choice of the Punisher’s iconic skull-shirt is a rather sub- dued one, closer to Logan’s relative accept ance of a leather jump suit in “X-Men” than Peter Parker’s design session in “Spider-Man.” Still, to license a Marvel character only to produce a picture with so few spectacular components seems like a waste of money.
Hamburger Cookies

Almond or Coconut French Macaroons Are Light
Cheesy Meringue Sandwiches

By Marissa Cheng

In the 1970s, the South Asian community in the United States was a small and tight-knit group. The SAAS (South Asian Student Association) was a prominent organization on many college campuses, and it was known for its vibrant and colorful cultural shows. These shows were a celebration of the rich cultural heritage of the South Asian community, and they were often attended by hundreds of people. Despite the small size of the community, the SAAS shows were always a big hit, and they were a source of pride for the organizers and attendees alike. The shows were known for their high production values and impressive performances, and they were a showcase of the talent and creativity of the South Asian community. The shows were often a family affair, with parents and relatives traveling from across the country to attend. TheSAAS shows were a true reflection of the South Asian community's love for its culture, and they were a testament to the resilience and strength of this community.
**Trio**

by Emezie Okorafor

Really? So, you have a boyfriend, now? You never told me that...

Yeah, sorry, but now you see why you and I can't go back to being friends the way we were before. Things are different now. Hanging out with you would just complicate things, y'know?

I guess this explains the whole Valentine's Dayiasco a little bit. But still, I don't get it. What's your boyfriend got to do with me? Is there some RULE that says a guy can't be friends with someone who has a boyfriend? What, am I not important anymore?

Most everything ALWAYS be about boyfriends and girlfriends and dating? Is that ALL that we value in this society of ours? What about the charming, unattached, "Lovable Losers" of the world like me? Aren't WE caring individuals? Don't WE deserve friendship? Don't WE matter, too? Heck yeah, we do!

"Lovable Losers" are people, too. Care it!

Tell me, Bobby, do the words "Drama Queen" mean anything to you?

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**The Tech Interviews SlickRick!**

by Brian Loux

So, you once did a song with the Rock?

Huh, yeah.

Yeah.

Can we talk about him instead?

And Northeastern would haducents

---

**Don't Kill the line!**

by Brian Loux

So why are we called SlickRick?

Cuz I'm Rick James, Bitch!

Due to multiple stab wounds and a recording device lodged in his neck, Rick James' personal knight, Picard, is about to Slick Rick kids with gaters instead.

---

**QED**

by Brian Lewis

BERT AND I APPLIED TO GRAD SCHOOL AND BOTH DECIDED ON WILBER COLLEGE.

IN THE PURSUIT OF ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE...

WE'RE TRADING OUR REAL INCOMES, FREE WEEKENDS, AND PERHAPS OUR SANITY...

FOR LECTURES, EXAMS, AND TOP RAMEN...

GOOD GOD DAMN WHAT HAVE WE DONE!

SON OF A...
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Glistened
6 Ben and Bobby
10 Ocean predator
14 Rescued
15 Unflappable
16 Star ___
17 Start of Bertrand Russell quote
20 Patriotic men’s org.
21 Kitchen appliance
22 Religious dread
23 Pitch woo
25 Change an alarm
27 Modifies
29 Dine at home
32 Pinocchio or Ananias
33 Inclining upward
37 Away from the prow
38 Part 2 of quote
40 “Agnus ___”
41 Performed again
43 Fili personnel
44 Butter wannabes
45 Magnate’s puniew
47 Shoulder warmer
50 Vicarities
51 Sine qua ___
52 Baltic country
56 Male offspring
59 End of quote
60 “Agnus ___”
62 Curvaceous fruit
63 Shaft between wheels
64 Egg-shaped
65 Life of Riley
66 People ficks
67 Craves
68 Exaggerate
69 Right to enter

DOWN
1 Mach 1 jets
2 Sarcastic laughter
3 Exaggerate
4 Real profit
5 Newspaper
horcho
6 Body of water
7 Orion and Acfl
8 Botanical anchor
9 Swing around
10 Possess
11 Princess of India
12 Director Cameron
13 So far
16 “Star ___”
18 Bovine bellows
19 Making mistakes
20 “Star ___”
21 FBI personnel
24 Feet/second connector
26 Break off
27 Having wings
28 Animation
29 __ Park, CO
30 Type of test
31 X
32 Pinocchio or Ananias
33 Concerning
34 Right to enter
35 ___-do-well
36 Fork prong
38 Pickpocket’s pick
39 Sleeve card?
42 At his moment
43 Student letters
45 Sal’s canal
46 Pasture
47 Shoot from hiding
48 Book after Daniel
49 Magnani and Moffo
50 Feeds the pot
53 Applicator
54 Hack
55 Norway capital
57 Overlook
58 Bartley and Buntline
59 End of quote
60 Mine output
61 Dam-building grp.

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Think you’re funnier? Prove it! Draw a cartoon for The Tech and send it to features@tt.mit.edu or drop it off in W20-483.
**Events Calendar**

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

Friday, April 23

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **MITball Open Ballroom Dance Competition** – featuring professional Latin stage by No. 1 ranked dancers Bryan Watson and Carmen. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage. **MIT Ballroom Dance Team**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Ishinryu Karate Workout**. Free. Room: MITB. Sponsor: MITB.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – **Open House & Public Tour** of the MITK building held every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Free. Room: MITK. Sponsor: MITK.

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Shabbat Services & Dinner**. Free. Room: The Thirsty Ear Pub. Sponsor: The Thirsty Ear Pub.

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **French and Polish Thematic Tours Acceptances**. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: Community Service at the Boys and Girls Club of Cambridge. Free. Room: Off-Campus. Sponsor: Community Service at the Boys and Girls Club of Cambridge.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **Milton-MIT Presentations: The Making of a New India and Women’s Radio Listening in Rural Samangan, Afghanistan**. 10-100. Sponsor: Admissions.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Spring Biological Chemistry Seminar Series: Prof. Timothy Mitchison, Harvard Medical School Cell Biology Department**. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – **The Station Agent**. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – **Big Fish**. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday, April 24

12:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **Rockwell Cage Half-Court**. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage. **Ishinryu Karate-do at MIT**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session**. Free. Room: Admissions Receptio Center. Building 27, 1st Floor. Sponsor: Admissions.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – **2004 Graduate Admissions Open House**. Free. Room: Lobby 7 at 77 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsor: Admissions.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Brain and Cognitive Sciences Lecture Series: Prof. Joseph LeDoux, New York University**. Lecture open to the public. Lecture followed by an invitation-only dinner at University Lodge. Free. Room: E25-117. Sponsor: Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Hosted by STC.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – **Cultural Diversity Night**. Recurring every spring on the second Saturday night. Free. Room: Kresge Plaza. Sponsor: International Students Association, ARCADE (Assisting Undergraduate Clubs with Events for Cultural Diversity Events). FinBoard.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – **Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study**. Sunday evening meetings. Regular schedule: 7:30-9:00 p.m. every Sunday except the last Sunday of each month. Free. Room: 56-614. Sponsor: Biological Engineering Division. HST.

Sunday, April 25

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session** (Followed by Campus Tour). Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Admissions Reception Center; 10-100. Sponsor: Admissions.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session**. Free. Room: Lobby 7 at 77 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsor: Admissions.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Opening Reception: ESG’s Composing a Life**. Free. Room: 54-915. Sponsor: Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences.

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – **Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – **The Station Agent**. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – **The Station Agent**. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **Ellie Magna Blvd Hotel**. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday, April 24


March 23, 2004

**By Jason Chu**

The Grand Opening of our column will feature hands in which the bidding play of a grand slam contract is paramount.

North picks up an uncounted collection of cards, amounting to a solid loser. But the auction quickly picks up steam, and is up to K7 by the time it returns.

The first order of business is to let partner know about the slam pursuit. I take a slight lead 2NT over the auction to promise, by specifying a spade control and declaring an uncertainty about stanza and level.

This forcing bid exclaims South, who evaluates his nifty-clinching control to settle for 3NT instead.

The bid SNT promises good tickets, and passes the back to North.

Since his partner could have signed off with a minimum response, North could have played 1NT and offered a cue-bid for summary. But, as North, you have a surfeit of spades and clubs, and there’s no need to sit in on the auction with 7 NT. So, after 3 NT, go for 15 NT, which I’m not sure what you’ll do with.

The answer will appear on April 27.

Questions for March 23, 2004

*A8K3 ADX9 72 69* restricted to 7N. How should North play the hand?

1. If West-most chose to sacrifice, how would you double South?

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 or damage resulting therefrom. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.
Combat tested.

join@the-tech.mit.edu
W20-483, x3-1541
(above) Kenyan Catherine Ndereba wins the women’s division of the 2004 Boston Marathon with a time of 2:24:27.

(above right) Women’s division winner Catherine Ndereba is assisted after crossing the finish line. Ndereba won her third Boston Marathon this year.

(right) Christopher Zieman prepares a burst of speed as he approaches the turn onto Boylston Street. Zieman was the top American finisher in the men’s division.

(below right) Kenyan Timothy Cherigat wins the men’s division with a time of 2:10:37.

(below) Henry Wanyolke and his guide make their final push up Hereford Street. Despite being visually impaired, Wanyolke achieved an impressive spot among the top 25 men.
Marathon 2004:
Against the Sun

(above left) Ethiopian Elfeneh Alemu completes the 2004 Boston Marathon on Monday, April 19, in 2:24:43, only 16 seconds behind winner Catherine Ndereba.

(above right) Shannon H. Hovey, 33, of Simsbury, CT, is helped away from the finish line. Hovey placed 27th in the women’s race.

(below right) Franz Nietlispach celebrates after placing third in the men’s wheelchair division of the marathon with a time of 1:23:07.

(below left) Top American men’s finisher Christopher Zieman, 32, of Felton, CA, douses himself with a bottle of water after crossing the finish line. Zieman placed 15th overall in the race with a time 2:25:45.

(left) Boston mayor Thomas Menino crowns 2004 Boston Marathon men’s winner Timothy Cherigat atop the awards podium. Cherigat won the race with a time of 2:10:27.
be there!
April 24-25, 2004
all day both days
Rockwell Cage, MIT

the MIT Ballroom Dance Team
presents the

MIT Open
Ballroom Dance Competition
spectators welcome-- admission to the comp is free!

featuring
a professional latin show by
reigning World Champions
Bryan Watson & Carmen
7:00pm, Saturday April 24
show tickets $15 students, $20 general

MIT Ballroom Dance Team  http://ballroom.mit.edu
A. King, a signatory of the letter, said “This proposal to build a bioterrorism lab in a very densely populated low-income area, the center of the city, is deeply unsound.”

King also said he was concerned because the lab would be built in a low-income area where many people did not have health insurance.

“Part of the mechanism for security and safety” is that they “monitor the health of people in the surrounding areas,” and therefore it would be better to “have the lab in an area of low population density,” he said.

David M. Ozonoff, BU Director of the Program in Public Health Preparedness, and Professor of Environmental Health, also signed the letter. He said that he had originally supported the lab, but then changed his mind because he feels that the laboratory “severely distorts the priorities” of public health.

“The new lab will not do public health research, he said. “It’s meant to deal with bioterrorism.”

“IT’s going to be [a biosafety level 4 facility so that it can handle the most dangerous organism biolevel 4 is “the kind of thing you see in movies, with [airlocks and decontamination showers … the most stringent security … despite that, accidents still occur,” he said.

Boston authorities assert safety

Proponents of the construction of the lab assert that it will have the highest security levels possible and therefore will be very safe.

Sonal Gandhi, Senior Project Manager for the Boston Redevelopment Authority, said, “we feel that the lab will be built to the highest safety standards, and that the laboratory would employ strict usage of ID cards and ‘the highest security standard.”

She explained that the proposed location of the laboratory was in a densely populated area because it needed to be “in proximity to the scientific community.”

Gandhi said that the scientists who work in the laboratory “are very highly trained” and “have been in the field for many years,” and that the design of the laboratory would prevent the escape of dangerous pathogens. She cited a level 4 lab in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, located next to a daycare center as proof of the safety of the lab.

Gandhi believes that much of the opposition to the lab from scientists and residents of the proposed area arises from lack of knowledge about what is actually going on. “We need to do a better job on educating the population on the lab,” she said.

“BU has reached out to [inform] the community,” she said.

“I feel that this building will be very safe,” Gandhi asserted.

Gerald R. Fink, Professor of Biology and member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, said that he felt that it was important that the local community welcomed the laboratory.

In principal, he said, “I don’t believe there’s a serious risk to the local population … in abstract, there’s no reason why it should not be built.”

BU spokeswoman Ellen Berlin had said in an AP article that the plans for the lab still needed to undergo federal and state environmental reviews for approval, and that construction is scheduled to begin next year.

Jennifer Krishnan contributed to the reporting of this story.
Spring is back, and the REI Spring Sale has everything you need to shake off those winter doldrums. Save on gear and apparel that’s tested, trusted and guaranteed to help you take advantage of those longer days. Just start saving up your vacation time before it’s too late.

*Not all items pictured are on sale.*

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**Forbes’ To Alter Walker’s Format**

Boston - Landmark Center (617-236-0746)
Framingham - Across from Shoppers World Shopping Mall (508-270-6325)
Reading - Exit 40 off Route 95/128 (781-944-5103)
Stores Nationwide - 1-800-426-4840

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**REI SPRING SALE**
**APRIL 16-25**

Spring is back, and the REI Spring Sale has everything you need to shake off those winter doldrums. Save on gear and apparel that’s tested, trusted and guaranteed to help you take advantage of those longer days. Just start saving up your vacation time before it’s too late.

*Not all items pictured are on sale.*
Certified mover
Certified shaker
Certified no more mac & cheese
Certified acceleration
Certified rush
Certified freedom
Certified bring it on
Certified Pre-Owned BMW

Certified only at an authorized BMW center.
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Sky Masterson (Zach Wissner-Gross '07) and Sarah Brown (Aparna Ramanathan '07) share a private moment in Havana, in Next House’s production of “Guys and Dolls.” The show ran last Thursday through last Saturday night.
In a demonstration by the Taekwondo Club, a student breaks a board with a flying kick during Campus Preview Weekend.

M.I.T. Summer Softball 2004

Organizational Meeting
New Team Entries Accepted
Wednesday 5 May
5:30 pm
Room 1-190

Umpires Wanted
$20/game
Sign-up Meeting
Wed 12 May
5:30 pm
Room 56-602

For more information, contact:
Shawn Hillier, MITCSS Commissioner
MIT Rm. 56-686, x3-6207, hillier@mit.edu

March 13, 2004

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April 23, 2004

THE TECH  Page 23

A drop poster making fun of Harvard lowered before an audience of prefrosh parents as Director of Security and Campus Police Services John Di Fava spoke at the Student Life and Learning Panel during Campus Preview Weekend in Kresge Auditorium on Friday.

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Rail:

Eurostar Train (2 days in London) $488
Extra rail $188

End Travel

Earth Share

The total trip: 7 countries…11 days

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Europe

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Oz Explorer: Sydney to Cairns, 9 days

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STA TRAVEL

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To Join a Marathon, Vault Over the Fence

Marathon, from Page 1

my muscles just stopped contracting. It was pretty scary." Despite the pain, Lim continued on until the I-95 overpass near Boston’s CITGO sign. "I don’t know what happened … but I fell to the ground … and there were three Red Cross people standing over me," Lim said.

However, this turned out to be what Lim described as his most memorable moment of the race. "They asked me if I wanted to go on, and I did, especially because I was running for charity … the crowd roared its approval."

Lim ended up finishing in 3:51, far behind his goal. However, Lim said he will "absolutely" run the race next year. "I’ve done it before," he said. "I know I can do it again."

Being a bandit

A majority of student runners, however, fall into the category of "bandit runners," or runners who enter the race at Hopkinton unregistered.

Francesca E. Guidi ’04 and Debbee Cheng ’04 both opted to be bandit runners for this year’s race. "It was a last moment decision," said Guidi. "Debbee and I thought it would be our last chance. Next year, when we would be working, we may not have the chance or be in shape to do it."

Unfortunately, crime didn’t pay for these bandits. The pain and the heat eventually became overbearing, and Cheng’s knees began to give out. "We had to walk after half of it," said Guidi. However, both women were still determined to finish, and according to Cheng, they "walked and ran to the end." The two finished in around seven hours. Guidi and Cheng found that the spectators were the most memorable part of the day. "People were so nice," Cheng said. "All the support and cheering from the people was really uplifting."

Both women will move to New York within the next year, but neither believes she will be able to undertake the New York Marathon. "I wish I had trained this term," Cheng said.

Jump for Joy

When wannabe runners don’t have rides out to the starting line, many opt to become “jumpers,” or runners that enter the race after the starting line, usually by jumping over the race fences.

Many jump in to run with their friends and encourage them to continue. Goodwin Chen ’04 jumped in with a small pool of seniors to push on bandit runner Kartik S. Lamba ’04 at the Mile 22 mark. "I hadn’t seen the marathon, so I thought I might as well see it as a runner." Lamba sent out an e-mail the night before the marathon asking his friends to join him in the race. "I did it last year for the first time, and saw others jump in the race," Lamba said. "I thought that would really help … it was something to look forward to."

Chen’s 4.2 mile endeavor did not tire him out much. First, the weather cooperated during the stint. "I did not feel the heat because it was cloudy and windy," he said. Additionally, Chen said, the run was easy because Lamba "was dead tired by then. It was very easy for us all."

Lamba agreed with Chen’s synopsis of the last leg of his race. "By that point, your muscles are cramped … and you’ve got blisters everywhere," Lamba said. "But I was just in it to finish the race."

In retrospect, Chen wishes that he jumped in at an earlier mark, and is considering doing longer distances in future races.

A little help from your friends

Ask any runner, and they will tell you that they could not have completed the race alone. Cameron M. Bass ’04, along with the other members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, volunteered to hand out water and Gatorade to all the runners that passed by. "We have contacts from the past years," Bass said, explaining how his fraternity got involved. "They’re really nice about it and they set you up with a place to be and they give you a free red jacket."

While most runners and spectators went home before dusk, Bass and the other volunteers had to work for eight hours on race day. "It was pretty intense," he said. "We’re getting water and Gatorade … and there’s such a horde of people coming in at times." At other times, Bass said, the job was fun. "We try to give [the runners] Gatorade without breaking their pace. A lot of times they will go by and accidentally splash you or spit on you … it’s entertaining."

One benefit to the job was that the unusual weather was never a bother for the volunteers. "We were sitting on top of hundreds of gallons of water," Bass said.

A Tau Epsilon Phi brother plays tetris on a model of the Green building at the Activities Midway during Campus Preview weekend.

Students make ice cream with liquid nitrogen at East Campus during Campus Preview Weekend.

To the tech
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MIT Plans to Combine Two Disciplinary Committees

COD head, Rowell said. While this number is typically around one or two, there were 12 graduate students for last year.

At the faculty meeting, Rowell had said that one case involved five graduate students, two cases involved two students each, and three cases were for individuals.

Though Rowell said that the committee has “higher expectations” for graduate students, and continued to maintain that the numbers were inconclusive because the number of cases tends to be so low that it is hard to pick trends.

Disciplinary groups to combine

Tyrell and Rowell have also been making an effort to unite the two disciplinary systems on campus. As part of this effort, Tyrell and Rowell meet weekly to determine whether each case should be sent to the Dean’s panel or the COD.

Rowell said one reason for doing this was to “create uniformity” in the disciplinary process to help make it more fair. The process of combining the two programs is “slow and deliberate,” according to Rowell. In order to assist in the groups’ union, Rowell said that they are currently moving “to have the two groups more and more alike.”

Tyrell said that he and Rowell wish to speed up the hearing schedule. He said that the “turnaround time has been faster” as a result of collaboration and that it is “helpful to individual students.” However, he stressed that they were careful they were not “moving so quickly as to be unfair.”

In addition, Tyrell said there will be an orientation program this fall for discussing academic integrity.

Students do not cite work

Rowell said that the most common case heard before the COD was one of a student copying and pasting material off the web for papers and essays. However, a “Google search on the phrase” is “typically how it’s found.” He also said that typically plagiarism cases, faculty find students often use material that can be easily found through the Google Web page. “I fail them in the course,” she said. She said she also chooses to file a letter to the Office of Student Discipline, but that she has never taken any case to the COD.

“I don’t tend to find it in upper division classes,” Haslanger said, because “classes are smaller” and professors become more familiar with a student’s work. Haslanger, who teaches the course Problems of Philosophy (24.09) in the fall, said she trains her TAs to check for plagiarism in such large classes.

Associate Professor of Philosophy Sally Haslanger also finds that students often use material that can be easily found through the Google Web page. “I fail them in the course,” she said. She said she also chooses to file a letter to the Office of Student Discipline, but that she has never taken any case to the COD. Though Rowell said that the number of cases tends to be so low that it is hard to pick trends.

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The prompt on the Library Access Music Project (L.A.M.P) channel of MIT Cable has recently been changed to read “LAMP is not back. But it might be back within a month. It will only be 60% as cool though.”

Co-founder of the project Keith Winstein G said that he and Josh C. Mandel ’04 have continued to work on getting L.A.M.P up and that he is “more optimistic” about the project now. L.A.M.P was created by Winstein and Mandel, and is funded by the 2001 MIT-Microsoft iCampus partnership. It is designed so that students can play music selections from an online database over a channel on MIT cable in analog format.

Loudeye Inc, the company from which Winstein and Mandel originally purchased MP3s, ran into legal distribution problems and may not have had the rights to sell MIT the music.

Winstein said that L.A.M.P has all of the proper licenses and that they are looking into other ways of purchasing music such as buying it in compact disk format. However, he said that L.A.M.P would probably not be as good as was originally intended to be because “none of the other ways [of obtaining music] are as good.”
Women's Lightweight Crew Competes for Knecht Cup

By Annemarie Grandke

The Varsity Women's Lightweight Crew team traveled to Camden, New Jersey, last weekend to compete in the Knecht Cup.

Women's and men's crews from over 50 schools from across the country, including Princeton, Stanford, Harvard, and Yale, attended the two-day regatta from April 18 to 19. It was the home race of the annual Intercollegiate Rowing Association national championships. While the Knecht Cup has been a popular feature on the spring racing schedule of many schools, this year marked the first time that a crew from MIT participated in the event.

MIT Crews competed in two events over the course of the weekend, the varsity lightweight eight and the varsity lightweight four. MIT fielded one varsity eight entry and two varsity four entries. Despite a rig- ger failure half-way through the race in the first competition, MIT's lightweight eight advanced to the petite finals as a result of placing fifth in the qualifying heat. In the petite final, the crew achieved a second place finish, 1 minute and 18 seconds behind the Columbia crew's 8:16.46 finish. The 8:35.32 time by the varsity lightweight eight was 11 seconds ahead of the varsity lightweight four, which placed sixth, with a time of 9:02.2.

On Sunday morning, the MIT varsity B four lighted the heavyweight team in first victory of the season, winning the fours' petite final with a time of 8:13.00, beating crews from the Universities of Massachusetts, Princeton, and Lafayette in an exciting sprint to the finish line. The MIT varsity A four also advanced to the petite's final, and placed sixth, with a time of 9:02.2. “Although our boat didn’t ultimately place as well as we would have hoped,” said Grandke, “I was excited that we qualified for the Petite finals. I think that this weekend, our team as a whole showed a lot of potential for the remainder of the season.”

Both MIT fours placed high in their respective qualifying heats on Friday to advance to the semifinals. While the MIT four had an improved fourth place, consisting of four rowers taken at short notice from the eight. Having never practiced as a four, the MIT four didn’t miss the qualification for the grand finals. MIT’s varsity B four rowed fourth by a half boat margin in the semifinals. The top three boats of each semifinal heat advanced to the Grand Final, while placing fourth through sixth missed the competition in the Petite Finals. However, with a final finishing time of 8:13.00 in the petite final, the B four would have placed fourth in the grand finals (out of a total of 23 competing crews). The crew of the MIT A four included Hing (stroke), Cathy Yao ’06, (2), Amiee Frew ’08 (bow), and Amy Lee ’07 (coxswain). The MIT B four consisted of Laura C. Harris ’07 (stroke), (2), (coxswain). The MIT B four consisted of Laura C. Harris ’07 (stroke), (2), Elina Groberman ’04 (bow), and Jeanna Liu ’07 (coxswain). Overall, the trip to New Jersey provided an opportunity for the varsity lightweight crews to race the previous two weekends against the University of Massachusetts, university, George Washington University, and the University of Rhode Island, and giving each team the opportunity to show their progress over the past three months.

“We made a huge improvement in our rowing,” said Grandke. “We accomplished our mission to row better and race harder than we have. We have patiently been building technique and finally were actually able to start racing with it, which we hadn’t been able to do before,” said Coach Buzz Congram on Sunday.

In previous sprint races this season, MIT had raced a varsity lightweight eight as well as a novice lightweight eight, for the Knecht Cup the only eight which raced was a combination of the strongest varsity and novice rowers, including five freshmen. Opening up the first varsity boat to all team members allowed MIT to field its most competitive entry yet. Laura C. Harris ’07, stroke of both the varsity eight and the B four voiced her opinion, “I was happy to get to win some races, after finishing thirty seconds behind other crews the last two weekends. It was a great feeling to finally race other crews head to head and to win.”

Entering two fours also gave several members of the team the chance to race five times over the course of the weekend, competing both in the eights and the fours competitions. Coach Congram concluded, “Five races in two days offered a great racing experience for our athletes. People learned how hard they could push themselves even when they were tired.” Congram said that he expected the performance will develop the team’s abilities and confidence.

While last weekend’s success was certainly worth celebrating, the team now has to focus on the next few weeks. There is only one remaining home race in the season, on May 1st against Radcliffe. The following weekend, the team will once again travel to New Jersey to compete in the annual Eastern Sprint Regatta, where the team will face many of the crews against which it competed in the Knecht Cup this past weekend. Groberman put it in perspective: “While this weekend certainly has been an improvement over the past few weeks, there is no time to rest on our laurels. We have finished the first part of the season, we will take the next month if we truly want to field a competitive boat at Spinfish.”

Varying the team lineup in the season will help to keep the team’s lineup fresh over the year, said Congram. He added, “This will allow us to field a boat that is very competitive at each regatta.” As the teams continue to develop, the Knecht Cup and other regattas will be a great opportunity for the team to continue to improve over the past three months, the team’s performance continues to improve over the past three months.

Damon’s New Person...Vilifies Sox Opponents

Damon, from Page 32

Damon means possible. After all, what I am saying is that the Red Sox are still reeling from their collapse and loss of a 3–1 series lead against the Houston Astros, and all the other do’s there have been no conflicts between them. That’s where the opposing team’s center fielder comes in. To the eyes of the entire baseball world, including the fans, any non-Red Sox center fielder is the “devil himself.”

The crusade that night I went was against Luis Matos, the young, innocent Oriole. Early on, there were taunts directed to Matos. The fans, speaking in the language profane, as the fans became more frustrated and drunk. Losing whatever respect he had among the fans, the devil Matos made a great catch against the Red Sox on Sunday afternoon. But the true hero in this game for the Orioles, a game they would likely go on to win, I just hope Bernie Williams prepares himself every time he comes out to the plate. If not, he’s too much...

So just with a little bit of laziness in not shaving, Johnny Damon is able to win over a ton of fans. After all, nothing else about the man really changed. Boy, how devoted the fans of the Red Sox can be. All we need now is for Derek Jeter to grow some horns and the Red Sox equals heaven: the Yankees and hell will actually be complete.
TIMETABLE
April 23, 2004
SPORTS

When the U.S. Court Disrupts Your Draft Picks

By Yongli Zhu

The NFL draft is a high-stakes event in the world of college football, where the picks are made to determine the future of many athletes. However, the court has disrupted the process in recent years, causing confusion and chaos for those involved.

The draft's role in the NFL is to allow teams to select the best available players to join their rosters. The process is designed to ensure that talented athletes have the opportunity to be selected by teams based on their performance and potential. However, the court has intervened in recent years, leading to changes in the draft's structure.

One example of the court's involvement was the case of Maurice Clarett, a star running back for Ohio State University. Clarett faced disciplinary issues at Ohio State, leading to his suspension and eventually his departure from the team. Despite his past, Clarett had the potential to be a high draft pick, but his eligibility was in question.

The court ruled in favor of Clarett, allowing him to enter the draft. This decision created a dilemma for teams and coaches, who had to adjust their strategies in response to the unexpected development. Some teams chose to draft Clarett, while others passed on him, leading to a contentious and unpredictable draft.

Another case involved the situation of Mike Williams, a standout wide receiver for the University of Southern California (USC). Williams faced discipline issues at USC, leading to his suspension and eventual departure from the team. Despite his potential, Williams was considered a top draft pick and was expected to be selected by a team.

However, the court ruled in favor of Williams, allowing him to enter the draft. This decision created a dilemma for teams and coaches, who had to adjust their strategies in response to the unexpected development. Some teams chose to draft Williams, while others passed on him, leading to a contentious and unpredictable draft.

The court's decisions disrupted the draft process, causing confusion and chaos for those involved. The NFL and teams had to adjust their strategies in response to the unexpected developments, leading to a contentious and unpredictable draft.

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**SPORTS**

**Women’s Track Breaks Records**

By Alisha Schor

The season may have changed, but the MIT women’s track team has not deviated from their record-setting ways. Continuing a trend that started during the indoor season, the lady Engineers have continued to update school bests.

With three meets of the season behind them, three records have been posted, all in field events. Nali- ni Gupta ’05 leaped 17’ 8” at MIT’s only home meet of the season a week ago, and last Saturday, Chin- we P. Nyenke ’06 and Catherine A. Tweedie ’04 took down the triple jump and pole vault records, respectively. Additionally, Nyenke’s jump of 37’ 7.75” and Tweedie’s 11’ 10.5” vault made them provisional qualifiers for the NCAA Division III championship meet.

“It feels really good [to qualify]. I’ve been lifting a lot and practicing my short approach on the triple jump, and it’s working,” Nyenke added. Just starting to get into full season shape, so it’s hard to not have many meets prior to the postseason. ’I think meets get me in the best shape, so it’s hard to not have many meets.’ Andrea Staid ’07 said.

While the NCAA meet is not within reach for many of the Tech athletes, qualifying for various post- season meets is still prominent on many minds. The outdoor season is a relatively short one, with only four meets prior to the postseason.

“Meet numbers two and three have not deviated from their record-makers for the NCAA Division III championships. Additionally, Nyenke’s jump and pole vault records, respectively. Additionally, Nyenke’s jump of 37’ 7.75” and Tweedie’s 11’ 10.5” vault made them provisional qualifiers for the NCAA Division III championship meet.

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