SAE Decision Tabled

By Pernan Yeh

The Interfraternity Council tabled a vote at a president’s Council meeting this past Wednesday to give associate IFC member privileges to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. The vote will instead be taken after the fall 2004 recruitment period in order to better assess the fraternity’s situation. Said IFC President Daniel H. Daneshvar ’05, “Associate members of the IFC have all the privileges of full members except voting rights.”

SAE submitted a petition to become an associate member of the IFC and spoke at the IFC President’s Council two weeks ago. Becoming an associate member is the first step in the process of becoming a full member organization of the IFC. “I think it went really well,” said incoming SAE president Joseph P. Carlucci ’05. “The IFC tabled the vote, but gave us full permission to rush.”

The MIT chapter of SAE was derecognized in January 2000 after an undergraduate incident. The SAE house was shut down by the Boston Licensing Board and MIT withdrew recognition of the fraternity. The SAE alumni board expelled with full permission to rush.

Petition still being examined

An expansion committee consisting of several fraternity presidents was formed to look into the petition and make recommendations to the council. The committee conducted several interviews to determine whether these members would be an addition to the IFC community—whether they’d add something, bring something to the table. Daneshvar said. Based on its findings, the committee recommended that “we table the votes on SAE until after rush of next year,” said Daneshvar, primarily because “but there were some concerns about some of the individuals and their behavior regarding rush and orientation of last year.”

“These guys have serious potential to bring something positive to the community,” said Daneshvar. “We wanted to give them a chance to prove to us that they wanted to be a valuable members of the community.”

The council gave SAE stipulations to follow in order to prepare them for potential future IFC membership. Members are to receive training for intervention procedures, which is required of all IFC members. In addition, SAE is required to meet with Steven J. Tyrell, associate director of student life.

Ljubicic, Robot Win 2007 “Big Dig” Contest

By Kathy Dobson

Dean M. Ljubicic ’06 took first place in the annual 2.007 design contest with his robot besting that of Bryan Woodruff ’06 in the final round.

Both robots featured complicated designs with multiple strategies, and both robots required an additional driver. “A lot of people say, ‘Make your design simple,’” Ljubicic said. “I did something complicated but put in enough time to make sure it worked.”

Samuel M. Felton ’06 and Adam S. Kaczmarek ’06 were the other two in the final four of the contest and, as a result of their finish, will participate with Ljubicic and Woodruff in the International Design Contest in Japan this summer.

Contest features many options

Named “Big Dig” in honor of Boston’s Central Artery/Tunnel Project, this year’s contest had four scoring options—more than there have been in previous years contests. The most popular scoring option was to move balls from a stack located between the two players’ starting positions and drop them into a hole. Fifty-five balls, small and large shotput balls, as well as pucks that lined areas of the table, could be placed in the hole for points.

Another scoring option, which was also used by many participants, was to spin a paddle wheel which was only accessible by driving up a ramp. The score was the maximum rotational speed of that shaft. This value was multiplied by the mass, in grams, in the hole.

The last two scoring options, which were rarely, if ever, used, were to push a button on the table, which added ten times the number of seconds elapsed to the score, and to push mass through a small tunnel, which multiplied the total score by two.

Multiple strategies used

Ljubicic relied on his blockingbot to stop his opponents, but also included an offensive bot to attack the competition. “We wanted to be a valuable members of the community,” said Daneshvar. “I did something complicated but put in enough time to make sure it worked.”

Masterpiece or Junkpile? Stata Opens Its Doors

By Frank Dabeck

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MIT’s newest building, the Ray and Maria Stata Center, will be officially dedicated today.

William J. Mitchell, professor of architecture, said that the building, designed by Frank O. Gehry, is part of a wave of building on campus that is “reclaiming MIT’s great tradition of architectural innovation.” Provost Robert A. Brown said he hopes that the many open spaces inside the $200 million building, which he called the “new entrance to MIT,” will draw students out and create the opportunity for “different forms of learning.”

The building’s residents have their own opinion, however. Natalia H. Gardiol G spoke for the majority (or possibly a very vocal minority) in an e-mail: “nuisy. complicated. orange carpet. hello? … I want my money back.”

The responses of building residents to MIT’s new entrance to Technion were mixed. “I love the Stata center. Beautiful, interesting, artsy,” wrote Bryan A. Ford G. A highly informed and vocal poll has “hate it” far outpacing “love it.” However, one is left to wonder where vision and reality diverged.

Stata planning began in 1996. Planning for the Stata Center began in 1996, and the project was announced in January of 1997. At that time, MIT’s Laboratory for Computer Science and the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (the two laboratories have since merged to form the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory) were slated to move to the building in 2000. The budget projection at the time of the announcement was $95 million. When Building 32 (Stata’s name under MIT’s numeric system of naming buildings) was finally occupied this year, 78,000 cubic yards of concrete had been poured around countless feet of steel re-bar (the largest manufactured), one million bricks had been laid by hand, 1,000 students, faculty, and staff moved their belongings in 16,000 orange crates, and the center’s budget had
FDA Rejects Morning-After Pill Without Prescription

The International Committee of the Red Cross regularly complained to senior U.S. officials in Iraq and in Washington over the last several months about prisoner abuses at Abu Ghraib prison, a spokesman for the committee said on Thursday.

The spokesman, Roland Huegguin, said, "Our reports to the U.S. administration contained many aspects which have now been reported with clear descriptions of the treatment of prisoners."

Huegguin, who spoke by telephone from London, said the reports were based on the Red Cross' interviews with prisoners and were "very extensive and detailed."

"We knew everything that was going on," he said.

Huegguin would not describe the details of the reports, but he said that they included accounts of the abuses like those disclosed over the last week in news accounts involving prisoners made to strip naked and pose in dehumanizing ways. "We condemned most firmly these practices that are absolutely humiliating to anyone in the world."

He said that some people had said that the offenses were "even more awful" for the Iraqi prisoners because, in Arab culture, that kind of treatment is unbearable and shameful.

He said one thing that Red Cross officials did not know was that guards were taking photos of what was occurring.

Other human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Human Rights First, said this week that they had complained to the administration about reports of prisoner abuse and humiliation. Officials with the groups said they had encountered little resistance at Abu Ghraib.

"Unfortunately, we have not got the impression they've dealt with these issues very seriously," said Alexandra Antiga, head of government relations for Amnesty International, which issued a report in March that cataloged reports of beatings, torture and other abuse in Iraq.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is the only group whose officials are allowed to interview the prisoners in Baghdad.

The move was immediately criticized by Prime Minister Tony Blair's political opponents, who said that the government should wait until it completes its inquiry into how widely erroneous intelligence was used to justify Britain's involvement in the Iraq war before allowing Scarlett's appointment to go ahead.

"In today's world, Britain's greatest Intelligence Services is central to our national security," said Michael Ancram, the foreign affairs spokesman for the Conservative Party, said in a statement. "And it is essential that the whole country has the fullest confidence in it."

"The government-appointed Butler inquiry is cast in its current state in the whole question of intelligence, and the use made of it," he added.

"Given that John Scarlett is central to that review, and that the inquiry has not yet reported, I believe that this appointment at this time is inappropriate."

Blair — who joined MI6 in 1971 and who served in Moscow, Paris and Nairobi, Kenya, among other places — is to take over the job this summer, replacing Sir Richard Dearlove.
To Finance Troops in Middle East

By Matthew L. Wald

Of 9/11 Controllers’ Statements

May 7, 2004

WORLD & NATION

WASHINGTON

At least six air traffic controllers who dealt with two of the hijacked airliners on Sept. 13, 2001, made a tape recording a few hours later describing the events, but the tape was destroyed by a supervisor without anyone making a transcript or even listening to it, the Transportation Department said Thursday.

The tapping began before noon on Sept. 11 at the New York Air Route Traffic Control Center, in Ronkonkoma, N.Y., where about 16 people met in a basement conference room known as the Bat Cave and passed around a microphone, each recalling his or her version of the events of a few hours earlier. The recording included statements of five or 10 minutes each by controllers who had spoken by radio to people on the planes or who had tracked the aircraft on radar, the report said.

Officials at the center never told higher-ups of the tape’s existence, according to a report made public on Thursday by the inspector general of the Transportation Department. A quality-assurance manager at the center destroyed the tape several months after it was made, crushing the cassette in his hand, cutting the tape into little pieces and dropping them in different trash cans around the building, according to the report. The tape had been made under an agreement with the union that it would be destroyed after it was superseded by written statements from the controllers, the report said.

The quality-assurance manager told investigators that he had destroyed the tape because he thought it was contrary to Federal Aviation Administration policy, which calls for written statements, and because he felt that the controllers “were not in the correct frame of mind to have properly consented to the taping” because of the stress of the day.

None of the officials or controllers were identified in the report.

White House Requests $25 Billion To Finance Troops in Middle East

By Stephen J. Glaish

The Bush administration told Congress Wednesday it would seek an additional $25 billion to finance military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, breaking its pledge to resist such a move before the November presidential election.

Though lawmakers from both parties welcomed the request, many said it was inadequate, pointing out that the White House itself said earlier this year to expect a funding bill of about $50 billion.

“This is a partial payment at most,” said Representative John M. Spratt, a South Carolina Democrat and ranking member of the House Budget Committee.

Spratt and other legislators said they were informed Wednesday morning by White House Budget Director Joshua Bolten that the White House would submit in third special request for war funding as part of its budget proposal for fiscal 2005, which begins Oct. 1. Pressure on the Bush administration for additional spending had been building even from Republicans as prolonged fighting in Iraq depleted existing funds.

“It was clear there were resources our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan needed and the other members of the armed services committee brought this to their attention and they responded,” said Michael Conallen, the chief of staff to Representative Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican and vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

The White House request is expected to be formally submitted in about 30 days, said officials on Capitol Hill, and would be provided as a “reserve,” or off-budget, spending bill that would resemble the previous two supplemental funding requests totaling $149 billion. Spratt, whose aides have closely compared the costs of the Iraq war against the money allocated to finance it, said he estimates the conflict is costing $75 billion at an annual rate. The additional $25 billion would last until March, he said, making a fourth spending bill inevitable.

Massachusetts Aims To Cut Emission Of Greenhouse Gases

Governor Mitt Romney plans to unveil a comprehensive agenda on climate change Thursday, which officials said would make Massachusetts the first state to consider the impact on greenhouse gases when state regulators evaluate highway projects and other public construction plans.

Massachusetts, which was the first state to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, would go further by basing its transportation planning and funding decisions in part on the greenhouse gases that projects would produce. The plan also suggests giving the owners of hybrid cars tax breaks and the right to use high-occupancy vehicle lanes even without passengers.

The Massachusetts Climate Protection Plan represents the state’s effort to meet regional emissions goals that New England’s governors and Eastern Canada’s premiers embraced in 2003.

The plan was cheered by environmental groups, which had hoped for a strong signal that Romney would extend the previous administration’s efforts to limit greenhouse gases.

“Governor Romney is making it clear that he understands that failure to act on climate change is not an option,” said Frank Goeke, of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. “And that he understands that, to rise to the challenge of reducing pollution, states have to lead by example.”

Free Falun Dafa 9-Day Class

Sponsored by MIT Falun Dafa Club

Date: May 10 – 18
Time: 7:30pm – 10:00pm, every night
Place: MIT Building 4 Room 149

Phone: Steve 617-471-3835
E-mail: falundafa-officers@mit.edu
Website: www.falundafa.org

Falun Dafa, also called Falun Gong, is a meditation practice that has brought better health and inner peace to millions around the world. All Falun Dafa activities are run by volunteers, absolutely free and open to general public.
MIT’s core set of General Institute Requirements combines degree with breadth, exposing all undergraduates to intensive fundamental courses in both the sciences and the humanities.

Nevertheless, the administration’s decision to review the curricular curriculum is sure to spark significant additions to an already extensive core academic program. We believe that MIT should not overwhelm its students with requirements, but if it does expand the GIRs, it should add computer programming rather than a requirement on diversity.

The study of diversity is a valid and area for curriculum development, but it has not yet reached the maturity required for a field to be taught alongside history and music as a HASS-D. Being a student at MIT does provide some inherent understanding of cultural and individual differences via its remarkably diverse student body, but the fact remains that students spend much of their time working and studying in a homogenizing environment.

An increased emphasis of diversity in the curriculum could certainly help MIT graduates thrive in their private, professional, and civic experiences. At the same time, diversity is not a subject deserving of the status as a GIR requirement. As a concept, diversity is not well-understood or well-defined enough to receive the same educational value as a history HASS-D class that is currently feasible.

A more logical candidate for a new GIR, keeping to MIT’s core values as a technical institute, would be a program on diversity-themed computer programming and science. A reasonable expectation of MIT students is that they learn to program at a respectable level by the time they graduate. With simulations and other software becoming more and more involved in all areas of science and engineering, students should at the very least be aware of the role computers play in their field of study. Introducing a computer programming and science requirement that, much like the Institute Lab requirement, can be satisfied by a range of well-designed courses spanning a number of majors is a sensible reform. It would recognize the fundamental importance of computers to modern practice in science and engineering.

Even computer science may not merit an additional GIR, however. Academic exploration should serve as a key component of the curriculum, even at a technical school like MIT. The current GIRs dominate almost all of freshman year for many students, inhibiting their ability to explore different major possibilities. As the GIR taskforce progresses through its review, it should remember how extensive the current core curriculum is and how limiting additional requirements would prove. While much of what we explore in and out of the classroom changes each year, the fact remains that students have four short years in which they must be able to choose and explore their interests.

We should take pride in how our literature majors are well-versed in calculus and chemistry, and we should recognize how studying in a wide variety of fields increases our understanding and knowledge. MIT’s broad, interdisciplinary education would not be possible without the strong and extensive core program that the GIR curricula provide. As we move forward, we must determine how many of the current GIRs provide the benefits they were meant to and consider reducing the total number of GIRs.

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In the April 13 issue of The Tech, Christopher Anderson opines negatively toward recent media quotes of MIT alums and current professional ballplayer Jason E. Szuminski ’03 (“Szuminski’s Russophobia anathema to MIT Ath- letes”). It is quite obvious that, in defending MIT Athletics, Anderson appears not to have consulted Szuminski’s collegiate career to make his supporting points. As four-year MIT baseball players (Szuminski, me, and two, senior-year co-captains, we feel compelled to enlighten Anderson and anyone else who read with passionate assertion to Anderson’s opinions.

Before touching upon Szuminski’s comments toward the MIT baseball program of the past, we must emphasize that things have vastly improved. In regards to the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER), one needs only to visit campus to see the remarkably-newly-installed facilities. In regards to the baseball program, a new, emerging coaching staff has been hired, and the future of the program is promising. Currently, with 14 members of the firstclass graduating seniors complementing these qualified coaches, now is the most exciting time in recent history to be a current or prospective member of the new, extremely knowledgeable coaching staff. Although, as current and former MIT alums, we feel compelled to enlighten Anderson and anyone else who reads this letter, let us address Anderson’s accusation that “Szuminski betrayed the entire department that made his Major League Baseball gig possible.”

First, Szuminski’s path to the major leagues is quite transparent. At MIT, he was a bright student, first in our eyes, only in visit campus to see the remarkably-newly-installed facilities. In regards to the baseball program, a new, emerging coaching staff has been hired, and the future of the program is promising. Currently, with 14 members of the firstclass graduating seniors complementing these qualified coaches, now is the most exciting time in recent history to be a current or prospective member of the new, extremely knowledgeable coaching staff. Although, as current and former MIT alums, we feel compelled to enlighten Anderson and anyone else who reads this letter, let us address Anderson’s accusation that “Szuminski betrayed the entire department that made his Major League Baseball gig possible.”

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Rethinking Africa

Africa

Mind-boggling that nothing is being done to reverse Africa’s brain drain. To say the least, it is a tragedy. Future generations, historians included, will find it incomprehensible. We steadfastly hoped that some distant nations would come to our rescue, even when in history has any distant nation ever left its own problems to go and solve another’s. As humanitarian as humans can be, we always offer aid after weighing our own interests. We first ascertain the costs of humanitarianism, and should there be any doubts, not only will we not help, but we may go so far as to try to ensure that in need do not succeed even on their own. We do so because of the simple law of human survival. No amount of moralization will change this law.

Ability to recognize these realities will help Africans begin to find the right solutions to their problems. Understanding that the uniqueness of African problems will require some unique and homegrown solutions is essential and the right way to begin. Recognizing that there are no shortcuts or magic solutions, understanding that there’s so great success without accompanying risk, sacrifices, and trial and error learning, and appreciating that the size of the problem also defines the size of the opportunity will make us more prepared and ready for today’s challenges.

More importantly, giving everyone an equal opportunity to participate and to experiment will help ignite the entrepreneurial vigor in most Africans. The day we begin believing in ourselves, treating one another, treating one another with respect, and giving credit to deserving fellow Africans is the day our development begins to take strong roots. The day we guarantee everyone’s economic freedom is the day African capitalism emerges. And more importantly, the day we stop spending billions of dollars annually in defense and start channeling that money into education, health care, and agriculture is the day we really know how to put our money where our mouths are.

Africans need more actions than blueprint declarations if they want to become a competitive member of the global economy. They need an African central bank and an “Afro currency,” to use a word that Szuminski and other economists speak. They need to reduce present dependence on non-African currencies and their associated transaction costs. Africans will welcome a unified Africa in which governments do less to divide them or obstruct their free movement, where goods and services move freely not only because that will guarantee them access to a huge market but also because it will facilitate cross-border flows of capital across Africa. The presence of a regional assembly making laws, a regional police force maintaining law and order, and a regional peacekeeping force making war a thing of the past will begin to cement regional integration. Africans must do these things not to impress anyone; it is Africa’s future that is at stake.
May 7, 2004

**Comics Fun Pages**

**Filler Space**

"Yeah, my friend is in the MIT Business Office, and he was trying to sell us subscriptions.

"IT'S AN ACTUAL HUMOR MAGAZINE."

"Here at MIT, we have "YOU DOO"..."

"IT'S LIKE "LOOK, HERE'S A PENCIL."

"He's a pencil! And some Elektra!"

"Look! We're getting gang-banged at MIT! Haha! And it's MIT that's giving us! Hahaha!"

"At least it's not, like, the tech..."

"TRUE."

by Brian Loux

**State of the Institute Address**

So, you're telling me that you've actually given up on "love"? Huh? Huh? What a scary idea...

I don't know what I ever did to deserve it, but for some reason or another, you've grown to really care about me. And you always will.

That's just the way you are. And, I'll always appreciate that.

So, maybe it would be best if we just put this friendship on hold. At least, until we've both grown a bit...

And figured out what all this "love" stuff really is...

Mmm, "good-bye." It sounds so... final and scary. So instead, why don't I just say...

"See ya when I see ya, Bobby Sykes!"

AUGH! Love hurts! Especially, the kiddies!

by Emezie Okorafor

**QED**

"Meeting with your advisor today? You ready?"

"Dude, I'm solid as a glacier!"

"Not bad, but your assumptions are a little weak..."

"And you've mis-calculated this amount... by a lot!"

"So for your proof, it basically doesn't exist."

"Solid as a glacier, eh?"

"Shut it!"

by Brian Lewis
ACROSS
1 Custard treat          14 Prom transport   29 Sets free
20 Medical specialty    24 Poetic contraction 32 Appearance
22 Dawn goddess        27 Wading birds       33 Word with point or length
23 Goddess of dawn      28 High peak           35 Automobiles
25 "48__"              29 Sets free          37 Revue part
31 Fifty percent       34 Pointed stake     39 Actress Ione
38 Dove sounds         40 One Judd          42 Arrogantly
41 Whole shebang       44 Invite to enter    43 Influence

DOWN
1 Ice mass              2 Peru's capital     48 Regret
2 Latin love            5 One of superior quality 58 French state
3 Opposite of everybody 6 Diamond name      59 Peel
6 Apesess              7 Thanks!_!         60 "Rule Britannia"
9 Checked out the joint 8 Night in            61 Dictator lid
10 Precipice           11 Asian nation      62 Peel
12 Superman's letter   13 Billy___Williams  63 Some votes
15 Singer Falana       16 Left bed          64 Italian violinmaker
17 "Typee" sequel       18 Armageddon in brief 65 A Stogge
19 Put into service again 20 Medical specialty 21 Expression of wonderment
22 Grave letters?      23 Dawn goddess      22 Grave letters?
26 Repair again        27 Wading birds      23 Dawn goddess
28 High peak           29 Sets free          24 Poetic contraction
30 Refutes by detailed examination
31 Fifty percent       34 Pointed stake     32 Appearance
35 Automobiles         37 Revue part      38 Dove sounds
39 Actress Ione       40 One Judd          41 Whole shebang
42 Arrogantly         43 Influence       44 Invite to enter
45 Danny or Stubby    46 Dispatched       47 Greek advisor
49 Meadows to a poet      49 Meadows to a poet
51 Circulour          52 Retirement grp.  53 Ump's call
55 Narrow inet         56 Legendery lawman 57 "I Had a Hammer" group
59 Peel               60 "Rule Britannia" composer
61 Dictator lid

Solution, page 14

Bridge

By jason Chiu

Another critical tool for getting to odds-on grand slams is asking the right questions. In this deal from the First Qualifying Session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs, asking the right question means the difference between languishing in 6NT or enjoying the matchpoints for 7 ♠.

After I made a pointless stall with the New Minor Forcing 3♣, the auction ceased to be manageable. The information that my partner does not have three spades nor six hearts is irrelevant, since we have not settled on a strain. We cuebided several controls, but eventually stopped in 6NT. My partner squeezed South in hearts and diamonds, but +1470 was worth only 13.5 matchpoints on a 25 top.

Then he pointed out a general principle which included a nearly certain path to this grand slam. If I stepped back from the ecstasy of slam investigation to realize that the ♣A and the kings of the remaining suits would give play to 7 ♠, then the correct call was clear. Bidding a forcing, and mildly slammish, 3♠ would enable us to cuebid fruitfully, eventually allowing him to conclude that I held six strong spades and two red aces. Bidding the grand slam would be worth 21.5 matchpoints.

Answer from the April 30 column: The question was slightly more tricky than I had intended, and no correct answers were received. If North-South avoids taking the ♥A or leading clubs, then 6♦ doubled shall fail by four tricks. Any such slip would allow West to establish an extra trick in dummy.

Question, due at chiujw@yahoo.com by Tuesday, May 11. Why did I never choose to bid 4NT? An entry shall be chosen at random from the correct responses to win a free play at the MIT Draper Lab’s Bridge Club. The winner and answer shall be printed on May 14.

Student Pugwash Forum:
The Future of Environmentalism

web.mit.edu/pugwash

Supported by MIT Student Pugwash and MIT UA/Flinboard

Laughing is one form of mental hygiene.
he also built in several offensive mechanisms capable of scoring points. "I expected to do well," Ljubicic said. "My goal was to place in the top four" because of the trip to Japan, he said.

In the finals, Ljubicic was able to spin the paddle wheel to win the round and the contest. "I didn't know he had a spinner," Woodruff said. Ljubicic said that he had not used the spinner in one of the earlier rounds because he was saving it for a last resort.

Woodruff's robot, which was faster and more mobile than most, consisted of two smaller robots. One of the robots was specialized in spinning the paddle wheel, and did so quite successfully until the last round. The other robot pushed balls into the hole.

Woodruff said that he stayed up on Wednesday night trying to figure out how to beat Ljubicic. "He was the one person I feared," Woodruff said.

Contest more complicated
Professor Ernesto E. Blanco, an instructor in the course, said that the contest was more complicated than past years' contests. "I wonder if we made it too complicated and too difficult," he said.

Slocum said that the students were a little more on schedule this year. The instructors did "a better job coaching and keeping them to a schedule," he said.

The course also differed this year in that students built a simple car for three weeks early in the semester as an introduction, Slocum said. Between a quarter and half of the students incorporated their early cars into their final machines, he said.

"The robots generally came less well-made this year, but they come out earlier," said Peter K. Augenbergs '05, an undergraduate assistant for this year's contest who participated last year.

"People were driving around a lot more this year," said heroine S. Schell '05, an assistant who participated last year.

Many hours spent on robots
Both Ljubicic and Woodruff said that they spent a lot of time building their machines.

"I spent about twelve hours a week on my machine," Ljubicic said.

Woodruff said that he worked on his machine every day over spring break and 16 hours a week during the semester.

Woodruff's advice for anyone taking 2.005 in future years? "Don't leave a 2.005 project until the night after 2.007."
It May Not Be Right, But Is it Even Wrong?
School Spirit, Our Spirit, Rocky and Bring It On

By Mark Liao
FEATURES COLUMNIST

DEFINITELY.
DEFINITELY.

When I was a kid, we all had some fantasies that in retrospect were just plain weird. Someone longed to be covered in green ooze and become giant mutant turtles. Others wanted to have a bullet-proof car with a gun that wouldn't need recharging. Some of us longed to be covered in green water-proof penguin suit in my closet which I save for special occasions. Because I was, oddly enough, sweet. I really didn't know it then, but the character I was trying to project was 'sophisticated' Pocky. Bottom line, there's a type of Pocky for every-

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Dear Sinking to Wear Pants To,
Term's almost over, better unload all those weird thoughts you have into an e-mail to your regular reader (hi mom!) will attest, most of what I say is absolute gibberish. Heaven forbid anyone who got famous for saying it. Well, we're not hyp-

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Community Has Mixed Feelings About Stata Center

Stata, from Page 1

ballooned to $283.5 million dollars.

MIT asked for ‘generic’ design

Christopher J. Terman, a senior lecturer in electrical engineering and computer science, found himself in the position of liaison between MIT and the architects constructing the building. As one of the representatives of the new building’s clients, Terman ended up as one of MIT’s main contacts with Gehry. Part of his job, he said, was to translate from an architect’s “weird language” to language that engineers could understand.

Gehry’s approach to the problem of designing Stata was to determine the necessary qualities of the space, not to solve particular design problems. Terman said. The building’s design process was “not a case of the customer being right,” he said, but rather a case of the “customer needing to broaden their horizons.”

MIT asked that the design of the building be generic instead of “shrink wrapping the space” around the particular needs of current faculty. “It’s going to take a while to figure out how to make these spaces work for us,” he said.

In his dialogue with the Stata Center’s future occupants, Gehry pushed for more radical designs. When he first met with MIT representatives, Gehry said that he correctly predicted that they would ask to replicate their former offices in the new space without realizing that was what they were asking for. The design process asked “how do we get away from this,” he said.

Initial designs (including one based on a traditional Japanese house) were rejected because faculty wanted flexibility but didn’t want to be subject to that kind of invasion of privacy. Other designs that didn’t make the cut were based around the idea of how oncampus live and a colonial mansion. The Stata Center will be a success, Gehry said, if he was able to “interpret what [the occupants] were talking about in a way they never expected.” The building, if it is a success, should come as a surprise to occupants and “engender a kind of pride.”

Gehry’s desire to push the envelope of comfort may be responsible for unhappiness among current residents, but the building’s planners are optimistic. All of the problems “are very solvable,” Terman said.

Mitchell said that he expected discomfort following a “culture change.” The building is an experiment, he said. “I suspect that people will discover that they like more openness,” he said.

While Gehry was not aware of the complaints of new occupants, he suggested that the building could be adapted to address them. “You can do it, but you lose something,” he said. Changing the building would “give up a sense of community,” Gehry also suggested that residents may adapt to their new surroundings. If those that don’t like the new space can’t accommodate themselves, then the building is a failure, he said.

Students complaints many, varied

An unscientific poll of students and staff subscribed to a CSAIL-wide mailing list (ne-43@csail.mit.edu) has revealed a litany of complaints about the new building, many of which fly directly in the face of the design goals. Encouraging collaboration was a major goal in designing the Stata Center. Mitchell said that the series of building projects that includes the Stata Center was intended “not just to meet space needs,” but to “rethink the idea of a campus.” Stata was built to encourage a “learning community,” he said. The planners “recognize that in the end research is about discussion” and encounters in the corridor.

This goal is reflected in the building’s numerous open spaces, many of which serve as office space for graduate students. Gehry said that he followed “a simple formula” to draw students out of offices and encourage collaboration: add “a few funny colors and bring in some natural light.” “If the building seems weird and strange . . . it is related to” the design goal of encouraging collaboration, he said.

Many say open spaces lack privacy

The lab’s many open spaces have led, among some, to a feeling of lost privacy that is not a noticeable gain in collaboration. Leigh Deacon, a laboratory administrative assistant, wrote that her location in one of the Stata Center’s open spaces was inferior to her office at LCS’s previous location in Technology Square. “My office at Tech Square might have been a bit of a hole . . . but I loved it. It was my hole. I could close the door,” she wrote. Another assistant also commented on the loss of privacy. Gehry said that in designing the building, he responded primarily to client requests, but also to “stupid things like budgets.” Gehry said that the building’s final design was as far from a “brick box” as the budget allowed.

Stata’s unique design also posed a series of challenges to those constructing the building. Terman ended up as one of MIT’s research affiliate’s “unofficial” information desk” on the seventh floor of the Gates tower. Answering questions from visitors makes concentratng difficult, she said.

But many graduate students working in open spaces, intended to increase collaboration, have voiced concerns about privacy and distractions. Students reacted to open spaces that shared glass walls with hallways by painting, blocking, or papering the glass.

Nicholas E. Matsakis compared working at his desk in Stata to working in Project Athena’s “fishbowl” cluster that opened onto the Infinite Corridor. Working in the fishbowl was less of a problem, Matsakis said, because the fishbowl was clearly public space with no expectations of privacy or ownership, unlike an office.

Others are pleased with the new building. Graduate student Nicole S. Immordino’s impression of the new building is “infinitely better” than Tech Square. “Just walking into Stata makes you smile.” Deacon said that being on campus is advantageous.

The Stata Center’s price tag has also raised eyebrows. Terman said that the building’s budget was a “series of half-yearly crises.” Each time the budget had to be reevaluated, the designers had to work hard to get [the building] the way you want it and now you need 30 percent less of it,” he said. Gehry said that in designing the building, he responded primarily to client requests, but also to “stupid things like budgets.” Gehry said that the building’s final design was as far from a “brick box” as the budget allowed.

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The Stata Center is equipped with several layers of physical security: reaching an office requires passing through several doors that open only via MIT ID cards equipped with radio frequency identification tags. The added security measures, unprecedented on MIT’s open campus, spawned a lengthy debate. Research Affiliate and well-known privacy advocate Richard M. Stallman said that the system of locked doors “embodies the threat of pervasive computing: pervasive surveillance, such as no tyrant had the ability to impose in the past.”

Mitchell said that the Stata Center will be open to the public but that it will be necessary to find a compromise between security and accessibility. Electronic security provides the “flexibility to achieve security and openness.” he said. Debates about how to improve both security and privacy are to be welcomed and are in the spirit of MIT, he said.

Despite added security, unwanted visitors appear to be a problem. Gehry said that a sign of a building’s success is that “the world comes to peek at it.” Administrative Assistant Mary M. McDevitt said that she feels like “the unofficial” information desk” on the seventh floor of the Gates tower. Answering questions from visitors makes concentration difficult, she said.

The divergence of opinion that Stata invokes may be partially explained by the fact that there are so many different types of offices in the new building, each of which are better than others. As Gardner com- ments, “Each building project is unique, at least everyone was in the same boat. In Building 32, some folks got the plums, and others got the smashed plums.”
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Solution to Crossword
from page 9

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Old LaVerde’s Transactions Now Appearing on Credit Card Bills
A rash of unauthorized charges to credit cards from LaVerde’s Market are the result of transactions that were not processed until recently, according to a notice to customers posted around the store.

In the notice, LaVerde’s said that “About 6 months ago, we discovered that our Visa/Mastercard processor, (Global Payments), had not processed a number of credit card transactions in late 2002 and early 2003, about 20 random days.”

“Global Payments our credit card processor, gave us the authorization to key-enter the unpaid transactions and we are in the process of doing so,” the notice states.

The notice also states that LaVerde’s has “the original transmission tapes” and signed copies of customer receipts from the 2002 and 2003 transactions.

—Marisa Vogt

GSC Elects Treasurer
The four newly-elected Graduate Student Council officers ran their first meeting on Wednesday at the May monthly GSC General Council meeting.

Virgilio M. Villacorta G was elected treasurer on April 21 at a special GSC session, because he was unable to attend the April General Council meeting, during which elections took place. Villacorta was the only candidate for GSC treasurer, though other graduate students could have become candidates after the April meeting, said Michael R. Folkert, the former GSC vice president.

Barun Singh G, the new GSC president, Hector H. Hernandez G, the new GSC vice president, and Lucy Wong, the new GSC secretary, were all elected at April’s general council meeting.

—Kathy Dobson

Acid Releases Dangerous Gas At 300 Tech Square
The Cambridge Fire Department and its hazardous materials team responded to a call on Wednesday, outside 300 Technology Square.

“There was an acid that was dumped into one of the dumpsters on the side of the building,” said Fire Department Deputy Chief James Burns.

“The bottle broke and some gas was released,” Burns said.

The person who threw the bottle into the dumpster called the fire department, he said.

Burns said they responded with level A hazard suits and applied “soda ash” to neutralize the ashes, and that no one was harmed in the incident.

Improper disposal of chemicals does not occur too often, but it is also not uncommon, he said.

—Beckett W. Sterner

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SAE To Rush With IFC in Fall

SAE, from Page 1

Dean of discipline, and Daniel Trujillo, associate dean for community development and substance abuse programs.

Before Orientation 2005, SAE must meet with the IFC recruitment chair to “outline our expectations of them during the recruitment period,” said Daneshvar.

Wilmer F. Fiorentino ’05, spokesman for the expansion committee, said, “We’re pretty much going to give them some more time to get to know the IFC, to get to know the individual chapters, to get more acquainted with the IFC and the MIT administration in general.”

If SAE can adhere to the IFC rules and “they can pretty much go through rush without any incident, then it would clear up any questions that we have,” said Fiorentino.

Committee interviews members

The expansion committee interviewed four of the nine SAE members, William Noz ’57, President of the SAE Alumni Corporation, the Province Archon, a national official from SAE international fraternity, and several people within the IFC administration, including David N. Rogers, assistant dean and director of FSILGs, “because he’s been working closely with them,” said Fiorentino.

“The conclusion that we came to was that they seem to be in good shape so far but we kind of don’t want to rush them,” Fiorentino said.

Becoming associate members of the IFC would be the first step to full institute recognition of the fraternity. “Any group needs to come through us to get recognition. Once a group is recognized by the IFC it can get ASA and MIT recognition,” said Daneshvar.

A vote by half of the President’s Council would make SAE associate members of the IFC. After one year, another vote of the council would give SAE probationary membership. Then after another six months, the council would vote whether or not to make SAE full members of the IFC.

“Associate members are able to rush with the IFC,” said Daneshvar, “the only privileges that they don’t have are voting privileges.” In addition, Daneshvar added that “they also have to submit reports to us on a regular basis as associate probationary members.” As of right now SAE doesn’t rush with the fraternity system because they are not members of the IFC.

SAE plans to rush in fall

“The fact that we can rush next year is a big thing for us…we’re really excited about next year,” said Adam P. Leeb ’07, SAE assistant rush chair.

Carlucci said that SAE had already been “recognized as a colony and pledged in October,” but would be initiated as brothers tomorrow. A colony is a precursor to a fraternity.

He said that they were working on plans to live with Beta Theta Pi. We would “rent the top two floors of their annex,” he said.

He calls the IFC permission to rush fully gets them “a step closer” to returning SAE as a member of the MIT community.
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**Friday, May 21, 2004, 8:00pm**

Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory

30 Gainsborough Street, Boston

ELENA RUEHR Sky Above Clouds (1989)

DAVID RAKOWSKI Persistent Memory (1997)

AUGUSTA READ THOMAS Aurora (2000)

Ursula Oppens, piano

STEPHEN HARTKE Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra “Landscapes with Blues” (2001)

Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

EVAN ZIPORYN TBA (2004)

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Program Notes 7:00pm

with the evening’s composers

hosted by MIT faculty member Elena Ruehr, BMOP composer-in-residence

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We’re serving up the finest hamburgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers on campus—please join us. Food, drinks, friends, and fun—everyone welcome!

**Where:** Kresge BBQ Pits

**When:** Sunday, May 9th, 2pm-4pm; 6pm-8pm

**Why:** To celebrate the end of the school year!

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Free Admission
Reception to follow

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Alleluia
Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck
Ballo Del Granduca
Thomas Gauger
Gairshorrhough
Frank Tieholi
Postcard

Vincent Persichetti
Psalm for Band
W. A. Mozart
Serenade No. 12
Thomas C. Duffy
Techno “Logical” Fanfare

Directors/Conductors:
Thomask Reynolds
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Conductor:
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This stunning, lavishly illustrated book chronicles the entire planning and construction process of the Frank Gehry designed Ray and Maria Stata Center at MIT. Taking us from the historical background and architectural context at MIT through the interaction of the client's needs and the architect's vision to the choice of building materials and construction methods, Building Stata offers a uniquely detailed look at the evolution of a major work by a master architect. Written by Nancy Joyce, afterword by William J. Mitchell, commentary by Frank O. Gehry, photographs by Richard Sobol, published by The MIT Press, 160 pages, 300 color illus. in paperback & hardcover

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Juliana D. Olmstead '06, Sara E. Cinnamon G, Riva L. Bakal '06 and Jessica B. So '05 perform “Celebration,” a piece choreographed by Michelle S. Machon '04, in Dance Troupe’s Verve at Little Kresge. There will be performances May 7 through May 9.

WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH
Juliana D. Olmstead '06, Sara E. Cinnamon G, Riva L. Bakal '06 and Jessica B. So '05 perform “Celebration,” a piece choreographed by Michelle S. Machon '04, in Dance Troupe’s Verve at Little Kresge. There will be performances May 7 through May 9.

This space donated by The Tech
By Jenny Hu

Women's Rugby team defeated Tufts University 30-5 last Saturday afternoon to finish the spring season 6-0.

MIT dominated the game from the beginning, with players making up the field between good scrums by forwards and fast, clean runcup. A possession of the ball after a stoppage in play, or a scrum. In previous games, the team has had trouble winning scrums, partly because of the relatively small size compared to other teams. This time players consistently came in low and hit their target. Furumoto, an off-side ball carrier for the other team, was penalized for the first time ever and has only 10 yards to get his team back within range of their opponents.

The final margaret J. Nelson '07 and flanker Amy P. Forfis '07 both had several impressive runs, fumbling off defenders or dragging them behind. The ball came up to the line and was piled high, the entire team showed improvement in placing the ball deep in the back. After being tackled, often allowing their support to pick up the ball immediately and keep moving forward. Lineouts, or anytime they get a scrum.

MIT's defense was solid throughout the game. Players were aggressive and were able to keep the other team, and tackling low and fast. Junior captain Stu Tezesko '06 had his way zone only to have the ball held up. MIT's back line, led by Rhyll Syn-

Track Third in Championship, May 7, 2004

The MIT Men's Track team took a squad of just 17 athletes to Williams College to defend its title from last year at the New England Divi-

sion III Championsh ip this weekend.

Competing with small numbers all season, the team looked to continue its strong performance from the NEW- MAC championship the previous weekend. At the start of the meet, the Williams track went over, with Bates College, MIT, Tufts Uni-

versity, and Springfield College expected to battle for the second and third place trophies.

By Benjamin A. Schmucker

the team's specialty is the half-lap, howev-

Team Member

er, and he had the support of the entire team as he raced down the home stretch to a second place finish. That's what you can expect fromWozniak '06. Wozniak '06 secured a third place finish in the 1500 meter run. He had a strong performance in the long jump, with a jump of 6.17 meters. This performance placed him amongst the eight best long jumpers in the meet. With the exception of Fidkowski '05, Williams lived up to expectations and will look to reclaim the New England Division III title.

The team's performance in the throwing events for the Engineers; Orji '06 competed in all three throwing events for the Engineers; Orji '06 competed in all three throw-ins, have been difficult for the MIT Men's Track team took a squad of just 17 athletes to Williams College to defend its title from last year at the New England Division III Championship, May 7, 2004.
By Andrew C. Thomas colum/cw04

These picks are dedicated to every hockey parent who insists her son or daughter wear facial protective gear. What is up with the Sox? They have been swept by Texas is not a great fact, it has been inconsistent against the Islanders in the first round. Has he regained his scoring touch? It sure looks that way. Lightening in 5.

San Jose Sharks (2 vs. Calgary Flames (6)

Dany Heatley, Sharks' coach. I'm sorry I doubted you in the last column. You were the leader who also brought your club to the game with life and heart and carried them past the powerhouse Detroit Red Wings. The Kipper may have been great in the past, but he might have his team with timely physical play, but the captain's example can only go so far.

On the other side of this battle is Sutter's former employe - the San Jose Sharks, who are seeing equally good coaching out of Ron Wilson. Both teams have juggling acts to get to this dance, so both will be riding on a coin flip. This series is a tough one to pick. San Jose has proven consist - ence to be the last on the list, but they slipped a bit in the last round to allow Colorado to threaten a comeback from 3-0 to 3-1. If they are just before closing out 4-2 Calgary has shown as much as the other, even as good as Curtiss Joseph was in the last round.

Tampa Bay Lightning (1 vs. Philadelphia Flyers (3)

These picks are dedicated to every hockey parent who insists her son or daughter wear facial protective gear. Their injuries have skyrocketed in the NHL, the most tragic of which is detailed in Christopher P. Anderson's '07 column about Steve Yzerman. In a revolving door of top-flight names (most recently in the majors, the Tribe has the ability to get into every game they play because the starters are holding opponents to three runs a game. Jake 'Jerry' Westbrook had a string of 22 innings during which he only gave up 2 runs, 8 hits, 5 walks, 1 home run.

College hockey requires facial protective gear. The vision is not as clear as it would be a full mask as the IM program at MIT requires. But the NHL, with faster skating, harder shots, and lighter sticks, is witnessing a stagg - ering rise in stick and puck contact with the face. Jeremy Roenick of the Philadelphia Flyers suffered a puck to the face several months ago that gave him a concussion. The puck should not have been there. No wonder had the damage would have been if it had hit him higher in the face, the damage could have been far worse.

So please, if anyone in the NHL is reading this they's who considering making mandatory gear for the right for the rest of his life: if a visor is good enough for Joe Sakic or Peter Forsberg, it's good enough for you.

By Yong-yi Zhu sports@daily称之

April brought us some pleasant surprises and interesting turn-arounds in the world of baseball. In fact, it has been been inconsistent against the Islanders in the first round. Has he regained his scoring touch? It sure looks that way. Lightening in 5.

The synchronized swimming team performs their team number to Vanessa Mae's rendition of "This Is What I Am". The left: Leah C. Blasiak G, Cilanne E. Boulet G, Lesley D. Frame '04, Alice Wuu '05, Tenley D. McHarg '04, Victoria K. Anderson G.

By Christopher P. Anderson

By Phil Janowicz @athleticnews

You are a diehard sports fan? Do you like to spend hours sitting on your bum? If you answered yes to either question, you are pre-qualified to be a sports writer for The Tech! Come and see for yourself!