Rush Events Limited To Designated Times

By Ray C. He

A residence midway will not be a part of this year’s orientation, according to Johnny T. Yang ’04, co-chair of the Undergraduate Association of housing committee on housing and orientation.

UA President Pius A. Uzamere II ’04 said that the orientation schedule had been nearly finalized following a meeting last week with the UA, the faculty orientation committee, Dormitory Council, and the Interfraternity Council.

The meeting, held last Friday, marked the latest in a series of meetings where student groups discussed issues with the orientation committee, represented by Julie B. Norman, associate dean of academic resources and programming, and J. Kim Vanderheide Ph.D. ’75, chairman of the orientation committee.

A printed version of the current schedule shows allotted time for dormitory rush, officially known as “residence exploration,” after 9 p.m. on Sept. 1 and 2, and time for “Low Key REX,” or residence exploration, from noon to 6 p.m. on Sept. 2.

New schedule alters event scope

The contained times for dormitory rush will change the extent of planned activities.

Facilities Lays Off Eighteen

By Beckett W. Sterner

The facilities department laid off 18 staff last week and will let approximately another 60 positions go empty via attrition since May. This decision comes as part of the need to save $35 million in next year's budget and follows a similar layoff of 60 people and ten unfilled positions in the Information Services and Technology department.

Overall, Executive Vice President John R. Curry has said that MIT will decrease its staff by about 250 before next year across all of MIT, although the major cuts are in facilities and IS&T.

The jobs cut many sections of facilities, including project managers, grounds workers and administrative staff.

Lawful impact to be minimal

Chief Facilities Officer Victoria V. Siritani said that the "reduction is equal to 13 percent of our staff," or about 80 out of 640 employees in the department.

"Our hope is that the MIT community will not see many serious consequences," she said.

"We tried to minimize the impact," said Director of Operations James H. Wallace. "The lead time on repair requests may be a little longer." Wallace also said that with the decrease in grounds workers, "you might expect that the grass will be a little longer," but the workload will be spread over the remaining staff rather than losing a specific crew.

Clear Ban on Posters, Flags is Recommended

By Keith J. Winstein

An administrator-student committee has recommended that the MIT Housing Department adopt an unambiguous and consistent campus-wide ban on flags, posters, signs, and other materials from residence midway, dormitory windows to residence midway, dormitory windows to residence midway.

The committee, convened last October by Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, was formed in response to last summer’s flag controversy, when the Housing Department began to summarize its policy on alterations and additions to require several students who hung flags outside their dormitory windows to remove them or bring them inside.

Flag debate sparks committee

Several students who had hung flags — American, Canadian, and Israeli — outside their windows were required to take them down or move them to designated times.

Task Force Reports On Housing

By Lauren E. LeBon

MIT dormitories may be divided into "residence houses" and "conference houses" over the summer, according to a recent report from the summer housing task force.

The dormitories designated as "residence houses" will house MIT undergraduates as well as high school students attending MIT summer youth programs. Those dormitories designated as "conference space" will be saved for persons visiting academic events, including the Tech reunion and annual department conferences hosted at MIT, said Dormcon president and task force member Emily E. Cofer ’04.

East Campus, Bexley, Random Hall, Burton-Conner, and McCormick will be selected as "residence houses," while Baker House, McCormick, Next House, New House, Simmons, Senior House, and NW30 will be reserved for "conference space." The dormitories were selected “partly on past experience and partly on the physical condition of the buildings,” Cofer said.

The task force, which includes members of the Department of Student Life, Dormcon, Conference Services, and housing staff, submitted the report on Jan. 30 to Dean of Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

Summer housing may see changes

Cofer said that about 800 undergraduates request summer housing, and that at least 800 beds will be provided. However, this year, students from youth programs, including...
Nuclear Weapons Delayed

A project to destroy the plutonium from thousands of retired Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons has been delayed, and some experts say they fear that the work may never be done.

The plan was to have both countries build factories that could mix uranium with plutonium, the material at the heart of nuclear weapons. But nuclear weapons from Russia have been delayed, and some experts say the project may never be completed.

The mystery over the disappearance of a presidential candidate deepened Monday. The Moscow’s prosecutor’s office announced that it had opened a murder investigation in the case of the candidate, Ivan Rybkin, only to have it closed the next day. The police had been searching for him for three days, but after he went missing, the police began a search for him, interviewing his wife and others who knew him.

Some of Clark’s supporters said he was likely, but not certain, to end his bid for the presidency should he lose Virginia and Tennessee two states where he has invested a huge amount of time, prestige and money. So far, Clark has only won one state, Oklahoma, and by a very slim margin.

By day night, the police and campaign advisers said. On Sunday, the election on March 14, has not been seen or heard from since Thursday. The police and campaign advisers said. On Monday that he had suspected for at least three years that the country’s top nuclear scientist was sharing nuclear technology with other countries, but argued that the United States did not have enough information to prove it.

President Musharraf acknowledged for the first time on Monday that he had suspected for at least three years that the country’s top nuclear scientist was sharing nuclear technology with other countries, but argued that the United States did not have enough information to prove it. Some of Musharraf’s supporters said he was likely, but not certain, to end his bid for the presidency should he lose Virginia and Tennessee two states where he has invested a huge amount of time, prestige and money.

By Adam Nagerouj
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gen. Wesley K. Clark and Sen. John Edwards campaigned furiously through Virginia and Tennessee on Monday, struggling to block Sen. John Kerry from winning two pivotal primaries on Tuesday that Democrats said would put intense pressure on Clark and Edwards to spate the race. In Wisconsin, Howard Dean abruptly said he would stay in the nominating battle even if he lost there Tuesday, a stance he acknowledged was in “obvious contradiction” to a vow he made last week. Dean said he was responding to pleas from supporters who, he said, told him they wanted him to keep running.

Dean’s shift came after a weekend in which he suffered double-digit losses to Kerry in three states where he had once been in dominant positions — Maine, Michigan and Washington — and on the eve of two primaries in which he did not bother to compete.

For all that, the voting here and in Virginia could go some distance in helping to shake out the race, Democrats said. The chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party, Randall A. Button, said in an interview on Monday that he wanted to keep running.

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By David Rohde and Amy Waldman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

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By Richard Wolf
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High pressure over the Mid-Atlantic area will bring quiet, almost monot- onous weather to Boston this week. Skies will be partly cloudy, with near seasonal temperatures. Highs today will be on the warm side, with tempera- tures in the 40s (°F) before a weak cold front approaches the area late today. The remainder of the week will be slightly cooler, with temperatures in the 50s (°F) during the day, but little precipitation is expected until at least next week.


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Person Suspected of Al-Qaeda Ties Linked to Iraqi Bombings

By David Johnston

WASHINGTON

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian suspected of ties to al-Qaeda, is now thought likely to have played a role in at least three major car bombing attacks in Iraq that have killed well over 100 people in the last six months, according to senior U.S. officials.

Intelligence information including some gathered in recent weeks has provided "mounting evidence" to suggest that Zarqawi was involved in the bombings, including the attacks in August on a Shiite mosque in Najaf and the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, and the attack in November on an Italian police headquarters.

One official cautioned that the evidence stopped short of firm proof about involvement by Zarqawi. But the official said that the intelligence had added significantly to concern about Zarqawi, who one official said was now "really viewed as the most adept terrorist operative in Iraq, in terms of foreigners planning terrorist activities."

The indication that Zarqawi played a role in the bombing attacks adds evidence that the Jordanian has been active in Iraq since the U.S. invasion last March. A U.S. official said that Zarqawi had been "in and out" of Iraq since March, but "at last report" was operating inside Iraq. One of Zarqawi's top lieutenants, Hassan Ghul, a Pakistani, was arrested by U.S. officials near the Iranian border last month, and has been interrogated since by U.S. military and intelligence officials.

The U.S. officials who described Zarqawi's suspected role would do so only on condition of anonymity, and they declined to discuss the nature of the information pointing to a role by Zarqawi in the major bombings. But the officials who described what they called "mounting intelligence" included some who have been skeptical in the past of the idea that foreign militants were playing a major role in the violence in Iraq.

Bush's Press Secretary Testifies In Case of CIA Identity Disclosure

By Douglas Jehl

WASHINGTON

President Bush's press secretary and a former White House press aide testified on Friday to a federal grand jury investigating who improperly disclosed the identity of a CIA agent, the press secretary and a lawyer for the aide said on Monday.

The appearance of the press secretary, Scott McClellan, and the press aide, Adam Levine, reflected what lawyers in the case said was the rapidly quickening pace of a criminal inquiry in which a special prosecutor is examining conversations between journalists and the White House.

When he was asked by reporters on Monday whether he had been questioned in the case, McClellan said he had been filmed by news organizations as he emerged from the federal courthouse. On Monday, a lawyer for Levine said that the White House aide had also appeared on Friday.

Levine left the Bush administration in December after working as the principal liaison between the White House and the television networks. Levine's lawyer, Daniel J. French, said: "In keeping with the president's request, Levine is cooperating with the Justice Department's investigation and in doing so appeared before the grand jury on Friday."

In addition to the grand jury appearances, which are believed to include other Bush administration officials, prosecutors have demanded logs and copies of e-mails between presidential aides and reporters, prosecutors have demanded e-mails between presidential aides and reporters, prosecutors have demanded e-mails between journalists and the White House.

Rumsfeld Praises Croatia As Ally And Aspiring Nato Member

WASHINGTON

Wrapping up a four-day European trip, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld stopped here on Sunday to promote this Balkan nation's efforts to join NATO, and to pay tribute to Croatia's security forces, which are fighting terrorism in Afghanistan.

Rumsfeld, the first U.S. Cabinet officer to visit Croatia since Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright came in 1999, met with Croatian officials, including President Ivo Sanader, during a nearly four-hour stop on his way back to Washington.

"I look forward to the day when Croatia becomes a part of NATO," Rumsfeld said at a news conference with Sanader after the meetings.

Croatia has sent 50 military police officers to help the NATO-led security operation in and around the Afghan capital, Kabul, and has donated rifles and ammunition to the new Afghan army. U.S. officials are also exploring whether Croatia might send troops to Iraq. The Croatian military is open to the prospect, but so far such a mission has been politically unpopular here.

Back Pain Costs On The Rise, Causes of Pain Still Mostly Unknown

WASHINGTON

Treating back pain costs Americans $26 billion a year, or 2.5 percent of the total health care bill, according to a new study from Duke University, and far more if disability payments, workers' compensation and lost wages are taken into account. The costs are continuing to rise, researchers say, as patients get ever more aggressive forms of treatment.

Back problems are the leading reason for visits to neurologists and orthopedists, and the eighth leading reason for visits to doctors overall — ahead of fever, knee pain, rashes, headaches and checkups for healthy babies. More than 70 percent of adults suffer back pain at some time in their lives, studies show. A third have had it in the past 30 days.

Yet for all the costs, for all the hours spent in doctors' offices and operating suites, for all the massage therapy and acupuncture and spinal manipulations, study after study is leading medical experts to ask what, if anything, is doing any good.

A variety of studies have suggested that in 85 percent of cases it is impossible to say why a person's back hurts, said Dr. Richard Deyo, a professor of medicine and health services at the University of Washington. And most of the time, the pain goes away with or without medical treatment.

Valentine’s Day Flower Sale

Cut flowers, roses, bouquets, and flowering Valentine’s Day plants

First Floor, Student Center
9AM to 6PM
Friday, February 13 & Saturday, February 14
In Defense of “Tasteless” Comics

I am writing about Christopher Graff’s letter in which he complains about the “Prick” comic strip [“Tasteless Comics,” February 3]. Presenting the opinions of egocentric, would-be taste-makers is demeaning and in extreme poor taste. It was offensive to me, so therefore I am absolutely and unutterably certain that others simply must share my opinion of what is and is not correct to publish in The Tech.

In order for a student newspaper to be interesting, it must have certain necessary ingredients, including an extensive, enthusiastic, and probably even biased sports section, a few amateurish, unfavorable reviews, innocent, earnest, and overreaching political writing, and most importantly, a raucous, free-for-all roden of a student comics section combining campus slice-of-life observation and satirist humor with the exciting over-the-top tastelessness and even the borderline obscenity of the new-nuffled artist. The comics page is exactly the place for addresses- comic obsession with violence, sex, large danger machines, the infinite corridor of social and academic misery, funny animals, and yes, even the occasional cartoon rendering of someone’s private’s.

Let me offer Graff some advice. When I read The Boston Globe funnies, I don’t read the one about the reactionary duck. I don’t ask them to stop publishing it just because it’s lame, repetitive, biased, inaccurate and lazy; I just skip it. When you notice that a comic in The Tech that appears to have lots of drawings of shrunks, willies, dandlers, johnsons, havana specials, or penises, just skip it.

Heck, there’s always Dilbert and Dil/bg — I mean Dogbert.

G.L. Dryfous

Opinion Policy

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

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

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

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the author’s signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech’s Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between The Tech and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of its readership.
Ken Nesmith

Sorority recruitment is now at its conclusion. I have been very impressed with the process, but I caught glimpses of parts of it in the course of walking back and forth past sorority recruitment tables. Unfortunately, that’s not the usual response I get, and a few stories from both recruiters and recruited gave me a moment’s pause to appreciate the whole process and its contrast with fraternity rush. I don’t think I’ve worked out all the subtleties and universal truths about the differences between the sexes that can be derived from those contrasts, but that won’t stop me from speculating haphazardly.

First, a bit of history. Sororities collectively withdrew from the IFC to form the Panhellenic Association a couple of years ago. One theory is that key leaders found out what the letters stood for (Inter-Fraternity Council), got upset, stormed out, and haven’t called since; even though they still have the IFC’s favorite black t-shirt, others say Panhel just wanted a greater degree of self-governance, recognition, and independence. Either way, it was good for them.

Perhaps it’s appropriate that sororities exist under different governments, as sororities and fraternities are different worlds at the same time. There’s another distinction, besides the fact that the older sororities are as a whole haphazardly.

There are a few restrictions on the timing of offers and acceptances, but in general, the process is a fairly rational approach to recruitment. It is assumed that prospective members devote their attention to getting a bid at one or two fraternities, and a few days. That can surely be an extraordinary letdown. Of course, receiving a bid is a countering of feeling of elation.

Yet if Kerry truly wants to maximize his electoral potential for victory, it is time for him to pound away at the “successful” overthrow of Saddam Hussein, to name a few — since it is unlikely that the “successful” overthrow of Saddam Hussein is a boon to life in general, I think that’s not an entirely accurate belief, and furthermore, that the restrictions on simple conversation are nothing short of absurd and too great a price to pay to eliminate a small window of potential abuse. What’s really interesting is the contrast between the bid processes for sororities and fraternities. In fraternity recruitment, if members of a fraternity hold a pre-approved a list of people they can offer a bid to join their fraternity in a position of high regard, they can often accept or decline. There are a few requirements for the inductees. In sororities, there are only five or six requirements; these female Greek organizations are a relatively recent development, thanks to remnants of historically men-oriented fraternities and the tokenistic presence of women in society in general. Sororities encompass more members than fraternities, and so are necessarily less tightly-knit communities. Males seem to have stronger allegiance to their fraternities than do females to their sororities. Nearly all members of a fraternity live together, while only a fraction of sorority members do. A household of guys seems to be more harmonious than a household of girls, though determining why is beyond my scope. These differences are all obvious to most MIT students.

Ken Nesmith

Ponishing the Plexing Nature of Sorority Rush

A household of guys seems to live together more harmoniously than a household of girls and determining who is messier depends on who you ask.

Vivek Rao

Just a few months ago, the second best senator from Massachusetts appeared destined for catastrophic failure in his long-

ARGUMENT

OPINION

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the TECH

February 10, 2004

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Better with Age

By Danchai Mekadenaumporn

So you want to sleep with Mrs. Robinson? As enticing as that sounds, it may end up being trickier than you would’ve thought. Traditionally, younger women seek out older men because of things that usually come with age: intelligence, financial stability, and maturity. These relationships are also less taboo because younger women date older men all the time. I remember one time telling me that it was okay as long as she was half your age plus seven.

When it comes to young men and older women, though, relationships are less common for many reasons. Since many women are seeking stability by the time they’re in their late twenties, they usually aren’t looking at younger men, especially college guys, for fulfillment. I’m sure that not many college-aged guys are going after older women. Why? Let’s face it. If women are looking for older men, then girls are looking for college guys.

Before we discuss how to date someone older than you, let’s weigh the pros and cons. Your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, too. Not to mention credit card debt, failed relationships, and a propensity to hate men. Many college men are not equipped to be that kind of baggage-handler. Many people also believe that it’s easier for an older woman to manipulate a younger man in a relationship. If you’re used to getting your way, maybe this isn’t the right thing for you. I’ve probably scared off most of you by now, but the brave few who remain can benefit from the rest of the column. The pros of dating an older woman can be worth the trouble.

Those that have recently been divorced may be looking to have some fun with no strings attached. She may tend to be more open-minded because she’s seen it all, and she knows what she wants. She may go through the maturity process that high school and college girls are still going through. She may be looking at you and seeing a man who doesn’t need Viagra, Cialis, or anything else to satisfy her needs.

Did I mention that an older woman also has experience? I wouldn’t say how much in what areas, but I’m sure a college-aged guy can imagine those things for himself. She may also see you as a trophy boyfriend. Demi Moore shows off Ashton Kutcher all the time. But then again, you’re probably far from being handsome, rich, or a celebrity, so we can just throw that idea in the recycle bin.

If you’re intent on getting an older woman, then you may have to think like an older man. You’ll have to hit all the hotspots intended for twenty-five to thirty-somethings—or you could visit your local nursing home if you’re that desperate. As much as many of your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, it won’t bag you someone ten years older than you.

You wouldn’t want to give away your age up-front, because although they may be open-minded, they may also have to warm up to the idea of a younger man. You’ll have to hit all the hotspots intended for twenty-five to thirty-somethings—or you could visit your local nursing home if you’re that desperate. As much as many of your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, it won’t bag you someone ten years older than you.

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Better with Age

By Alex Nelson

The majority of women find a certain appeal to dating older men. When we’re still in our teens, we look to older men to make us feel more mature and independent. If we’re under-age, that special someone can take us out, get us into clubs and bars, and, most importantly, get us alcohol.

If we’re looking for something a little more serious, an older man can provide a greater sense of security. He has a full-time job and a place of his own. To a younger woman, this stability is quite appealing. An older man may have control of his life. He knows what he wants and how to get it. He’s already found himself, now he just needs to find you.

You may ask yourself: why does an older man turn to a younger woman right, mostly because they’ve already found out? What they’re in the relationship of their dreams. He may just see you as a fun and flirty distraction to romp with and recollect his college years.

At first this may sound like a lighthearted position in the bed, but consider the benefits of dating an older man. His extra years give him additional wisdom and emotional fulfillment. This may mean two things: (1) they know how to get what they want from you, and (2) they have more experience in the bedroom. Older men could help or hurt you depending on what you want from them. If you don’t mind being an older man’s sex kitten, take his control and run with it. But remember that this relationship is based solely on lust or, more plainly, sex. He might have these things — you goll dinger, but you do not forget what he expects in return. The moment you enter into this type of “relationship,” you are accepting the fact that you’re using each other for sex (or maybe you want his money), so do not be a crybaby, especially if it’s not mutual.

Above all, these older men have been through more of life’s problems. They have already dated around — they know what they want. A select few know how to treat a woman right, mostly because they’ve already found out? What they’re in the relationship of their dreams. He may just see you as a fun and flirty distraction to romp with and recollect his college years. Older men also may be carrying a lot of baggage. Hell, if I was divorced with a couple of kids, I might be living in a bagging, too. Not to mention credit card debt, failed relationships, and a propensity to hate men. Many college men are not equipped to be that kind of baggage-handler. Many people also believe that it’s easier for an older woman to manipulate a younger man in a relationship. If you’re used to getting your way, maybe this isn’t the right thing for you. I’ve probably scared off most of you by now, but the brave few who remain can benefit from the rest of the column. The pros of dating an older woman can be worth the trouble.

Those that have recently been divorced may be looking to have some fun with no strings attached. She may tend to be more open-minded because she’s seen it all, and she knows what she wants. She may go through the maturity process that high school and college girls are still going through. She may be looking at you and seeing a man who doesn’t need Viagra, Cialis, or anything else to satisfy her needs.

Did I mention that an older woman also has experience? I wouldn’t say how much in what areas, but I’m sure a college-aged guy can imagine those things for himself. She may also see you as a trophy boyfriend. Demi Moore shows off Ashton Kutcher all the time. But then again, you’re probably far from being handsome, rich, or a celebrity, so we can just throw that idea in the recycle bin.

If you’re intent on getting an older woman, then you may have to think like an older man. You’ll have to hit all the hotspots intended for twenty-five to thirty-somethings—or you could visit your local nursing home if you’re that desperate. As much as many of your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, it won’t bag you someone ten years older than you.

You wouldn’t want to give away your age up-front, because although they may be open-minded, they may also have to warm up to the idea of a younger man. You’ll have to hit all the hotspots intended for twenty-five to thirty-somethings—or you could visit your local nursing home if you’re that desperate. As much as many of your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, it won’t bag you someone ten years older than you.

As much as your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, it won’t bag you someone ten years older than you.
The Lowdown

As the world gets small and more integrated, cell phone technology blazes the path to the future. The new i500 and Treo 600 from Sprint are the forerunners this season, giving you personal digital assistant/cell phone convergence in a very functional package.

The trademark of the i500 is its clamshell design, giving you a very small package you can easily tuck into a pocket (unlike its predecessor, i330). Opening the phone reveals a PDA screen on the upper half and a tiny graffiti area with a real keypad on the lower half of the phone.

The Treo 600 takes the next step giving you a phone, PDA, and digital camera all in one. The QWERTY keyboard makes the device a bit large, but very easy to use for thumbing in e-mails while you’re commuting to campus or work. The camera gives you VGA resolution with decent colors and resolution; definitely better than missing that priceless moment due to the lack of a camera.

i500

Between the two phones, this was my favorite. I personally don’t want an e-umbilical cord with constant e-mail access, but I do like to read the news or browse the web when I’m stuck on the T. The small graffiti area is good enough for occasional data entry, as well. The screen is bright and easy to see in most lighting conditions. Best of all is the fact that this phone folds down to 3.5” x 2.5” — it is very easy to drop in your pocket and the screen is folded away safely.

Treo 600

As cool as the QWERTY keyboard and built-in camera are on this phone, the size is still a little much for me. If you are one of the people that already carries a PDA, cell phone, and a digital camera on your belt (I’ve seen at least one around campus), then this is the perfect next step for you. While it’s a little too big to slide in your pocket (and you run the risk of damaging the screen), it is still much smaller than its predecessors. The keyboard allows you to send e-mails blazingly fast. The camera will free you from saying “you just had to see it!” ever again.

Service

I found the entire wireless service offered by Sprint to be much more reliable and easy to use, compared to the phones I reviewed last year. The service is reasonably fast, allowing you to send (on average) about a picture a minute as an e-mail attachment (no more links to web pages like on older phones). Using the Treo, you can send pictures to up to ten recipients at once — much better than the older camera phones.

The Bottom Line

Both of these phones are on the bleeding edge of cell phone technology. As a result, purchasing them can cause your wallet to bleed. The MSRP’s for both the i500 and Treo 600 is $600 though these prices generally come with rebates. If you want to use all the web browsing and e-mail capabilities, you will need to spend an extra $15/mo (on top of a cheapest plan of $35/mo). I looked around online and didn’t have any luck finding great deals on these phones. If you want to learn more about the i500 you can check out http://www.samsungusa.com/wireless/ and navigate to the Sprint phones. To find out more about the Treo 600, check out http://www.handspring.com/.
### Events Calendar

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

**February 10, 2004**

**FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

**Dilbert** by Scott Adams

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**Events Calendar**

- **6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** – Green Hall Dinner. Fellowship, Asian Christian Fellowship.
- **12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.** – Mid-Day Prayer. ment, presented in language accessible to anyone. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
- **12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** – Orientation to Computing at MIT.
- **8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** – MIT Debate Team Meeting.

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**February 10, 2004**

**Events Calendar**

- **6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** – Taking Nanotech from the Lab to the Soldier.
- **5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** – Bustani Seminar: Israeli Peace Options: Thinking Outside the Box.
- **4:00 p.m. – MITa Tea Time — Culture Exchange — English Chinese Class. Free. Room: E51 Faculty Club. Sponsor: MIT Club of Boston.
- **3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** – Smart Resumes and Cover Letters.
- **3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** – 16.S26 Seminar (Prof. Jeffrey Hoffman).
- **2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – String/Gravity Seminar.
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** – Career Services Office. Free. Room: E40-311. Sponsor: Career Services Office.
- **12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** – SAPweb: Purchasing on the Web.
- **10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** – WHOI Donut and Coffee Hour.
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** – The Tech Page 9

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**February 10, 2004**

**Events Calendar**

- **5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** – String/Gravity Seminar.
- **4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** – LBGT Issues Group Meeting. The Issues Group is a community of faculty, staff, and students committed to ensuring that LGBT individuals are welcome and are affirmed by MIT and its community. Free. Room: 4-132. Sponsor: LGBT@mit.
- **3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** – Rights of the Body and Rhetorics of War: The Many Faces of Globalization.
- **3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** – 16.S26 Seminar (Prof. Jeffrey Hoffman).
- **2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Bending Leaves and Flapping Flight: Transitions in Flow-Body Interaction Problems.

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Resource Center] to decide who would be in control of certain blocks of time,” Yang said. "REX activities will occur in the specified blocks of time," Yang said. "REX would be in control of certain Resource Center[..." Uzamere said. "If it's not during REX time, it's not a REX event," Uzamere said. "This policy marks a change from Dormcon’s former position of not restricting times for dorm rush. A letter from Dormcon to the Tech on Aug. 25, 2002 stated that "we feel that the time designated for dorm rush is inadequate for you to explore campus and become acquainted with the dorm communities. As a result, Dormcon will not limit the times at which dorms can hold events — even if they conflict with other scheduled Orientation sessions.”

Student groups unified

The student governments involved in the negotiations with the orientation committee expressed dissatisfaction with some components of the planning process. "We were unhappy with the process, specifically when student groups were brought to the table, but we were pleased with the progress that was made, which the IFC finds more acceptable,” said IFC President Daniel H. Daneshvar ’05. “We too were disheartened with the process, sort of the timeline when students were brought into the fold,” said David B. Smith ’05, co-chair of the UA committee for housing and students.

The student groups came together to present a common set of goals for the orientation schedule. "This was really a joint effort by the UA, IFC, and Dormcon," Uzamere said. "The administration saw that and that sets the tone for the next few years," Uzamere said. "I think that the administration realized that it’s important to bring all the stakeholders in." Details under consideration

While time has been allotted for dormitory rush, the contents of this time period have yet to be decided. "It’s pretty close to finalization but there’s some detail planning," that needs to be done, Uzamere said. "I hope that in the detail planning that will be occurring that all the stakeholders are around the table, including IFC, PanHel, Dormcon, UA, and LGCC.”

Proposed Orientation Schedule

Source: JULIE B. NORMAN

Proposed Orientation Schedule

Sunday, Aug. 29
Parent Registration begins FOPDs end Coordinated Move-in

Monday, Aug. 30
President’s Breakfast, 9 a.m. to noon, Walker Memorial Calculus/Physics (18.02/01), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Calculus/Physics (18.01/02/03), 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Parent Panels in Health and Safety, Medical/Housing, and Financial aid, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Learning Communities Open Houses, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 31
Chemistry, 9 a.m. to noon Learning Communities Open Houses, 10 a.m. to noon Freshmen Essay Exam, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Learning Communities Open Houses, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Parent Orientation and ending Dean Panels Housemasters, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (all freshmen meet in individual dorms/quarters by O Leaders to REX)

Wednesday, Sept. 1
Convocation, 10 a.m. to noon Faculty Freshmen Picnic, noon to 1:30 p.m., Killian Court Conv. BBQ, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Academic Expo, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 2
Registration by 6 p.m. Freshmen Explorations (IFC, PanHel, Dormcon) Various open houses and academic sessions all day Dean Panels Housemasters, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (all freshmen meet in individual dorms/quarters)

Friday, Sept. 3
Alcohol event in Kresge, Academic Advisor time 1:30 p.m., Killian Court BBQ (Kresge)

Adjustment Lottery Opens

Academic Expo, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 4
Tour of the campus for town visitors, the task force wrote. "We also expect the desk operations in the ‘student houses’ will be improved as well, both the type of service will be more similar to school year operations.” According to the report, the dormitories designated as “conference” and “residential” will rotate each year.

Summer RA position proposed

The report also suggests the creation of a "summer resident assistant," an undergraduate or graduate student who will serve the dormitory "as a resource and crisis referral link for the students living there." "GRTs don’t have official responsibilities over the summer at MIT, but [students] will have a go-to person in case something goes wrong," said Kevin R. Lang G, a hall and a task force member.

"Being a GRT is a fair time commitment all year long,” Lang said, and the summer is the only time these students have “flexibility.”

Cofer said that graduate resident tutors, although they are living in dormitories over the summer, only commit to a nine month position when weeks run during the summer, and are often “sucked into things they aren’t responsible for.”

The summer residence assistant will work to “preserve goodwill in the GRT system,” Lang said. “I was pleased with the way the [task force] handled summer staffing.” As an incentive for dormitories to agree to the proposal, the report recommends that dormitories receive a small monetary reward for housing a certain number of summer students, and will be provided with minor incentives, such as kitchen and bathroom improvements.

Report describes summer issues

The task force report lists a number of problems that the new summer plan hopes to resolve. First, the report said that undergraduate students who live in summer housing do not have the “organized community” that exists during the school year.

"There is no residential hall staff and no Institute funds regularly designated to pay for permanent summer residents, and will be provided a small monetary reward for housing a certain number of summer students,” the report wrote. "The school year community," the report said.

Next, the report said that there is no “responsible employee” and no “residential community system” over the summer, and that this has led to problems in dealing with “serious incidents.”

Other summer problems cited in the report were difficulties with undertaking major maintenance problems, problems with accommodating conference visitors, and damage to property stored in dormitories over the summer.

Finally, the report said that high school students living in undergraduate housing require special consideration and need extra help in creating a link between these students and summer undergraduates.

Report offers other suggestions

The report suggests offering special consideration to students who participate in extensive dormitory employment positions.

According to the report, MIT "should offer free summer housing to three sets of summer workers: (1) desk caps in dorms, (2) summer hourly compensation, (2) desk workers who agree to work 40 hours per week, and (3) ‘grunge workers,’ who similarly agree to work 40 hours per week. In the latter two categories, 40 hours may prove to be too high a standard, but the idea is to provide special incentives to students who commit to serious residential staff work during the summer, beyond ‘an hour here, an hour there.’"
Eat Bananas.

MIT Department of Facilities

Campus Construction Update

Steel erection continues on the eighth floor. Fire protection work is in progress. Installation of metal doors continues. Albany Street between the Albany St. Garage and Main Street will remain closed through spring/summer 2004. Vehicles exiting the garage must use Main Street. Section of steel continues on the north and south portion of the site and adjacent rail tracks.

Building

Public access to the building is limited to the third and fourth floors. All other areas are restricted to construction personnel. Hard hats and signs are required for access to first and second floors and excavation. Undesired disturbance by live protection water, chilled water, and fire alarm testing are expected to continue through the end of the project. Parties who will be directly impacted by the disturbance will be notified in advance.

Stain Tower

Interior finish work (tile, glass, etc.) and street (office partitions) are underway on the seventh and eighth floors. Power installation is proceeding at a rate dictated by weather conditions. Interior work on office partitions and stair (interior glass, etc.) continues in the Cannon and Sweeney towers.

Waycross Street/High Campus

Drainage work continues along Waycross Street from Chestnut to Albany Street. Drainage work scheduled to begin from Sweeney-Pacifica Street to Meridian Street.

For more information, please contact the building management office at 253-4366 or visit the www.facilities.mit.edu.

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9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Stratton Student Center, Third Floor

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February 10, 2004

THE TECH

Nuclear Engineering
UROP FAIR
Thursday, Feb.12th
1:30 - 3:00pm
Lobby 13

Contact Professor Andrew C. Kadak
for more information: Kadak@mit.edu
Building 24-202, (617)253-0166

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Endeca Employment Open House
Thursday, February 12, 2004
6:00PM
Building 4-145
Bertucci’s Pizza and soft drinks will be served
Bring your resume

Solution to Crossword
from page 8

Exterior Posting Not ‘Two-way Discussion’

Flags, from Page 1

them inside under the new interpretation of the rule, which forbids dormitory residents to “alter or add to any part of the building structure, mechanical, or electrical systems.”

Previously, the Housing Department had not interpreted or enforced the rule to forbid students from hanging flags out of their windows. But a student’s July 2003 complaint against Jonathan A. Goler ‘05, who had draped an Israeli flag from his window at Sidney-Pacific, eventually prompted the new MIT-wide enforcement of the “alterations and additions” rule to forbid students from hanging flags, and in one case led Benedict to require the removal of Israeli flags that had hung at Bexley Hall for more than three years, said Jonathan Battat ‘05, the current occupant of the room above the flags.

With Goler threatening legal action and a heated discussion playing out at a series of Undergraduate Association forums and in The Tech’s opinion pages, Benedict convened the committee in October “to review the current policy inboarding about not making any alterations or additions to our residence halls.”

The committee, chaired by associate dean Julie B. Norman, included representatives of the UA, Graduate Student Council, and Dormitory Council.

“I have circulated it among some staff and have had no suggested changes so far, but what’s really surprising is that the Housing Strategy Group meeting we are prepared to accept the report,” Benedict wrote in an e-mail. The Housing Strategy Group includes several students and administrators and will discuss the report on Feb. 19. I find the report to be very thorough and sensitive to the needs of our community,” he wrote. (See excerpts, page 13.)

The committee listed as its first recommendation: “No materials may be placed, affixed, hung or extended from any exterior surface of a MIT residence hall, including rooftops.”

Norman, the committee chair, said clarity and uniformity were the motivations for the committee’s recommendations: “It was a universal ban on exterior materials.

“We wanted to be very clear on what the policy is so there isn’t a lot of gray area,” Norman said.

“What personal expression should be in-your-face thing, and that’s not appropriate for us to stay in their space and not to have a reply. It becomes confusion and it becomes hard for Housing to enforce,” she said.

“I think one of the underlying issues is that we can’t put our individual desires in front of the community,” Norman said. “We certainly believe in free expression, but I think you have to look at, ‘What expression, and what is communication?’” she said.

UA representatives oppose compromise

Navot, who in October introduced a resolution in the UA Senate to ask the Housing Department to permit flag-hanging, described the committee’s final report as a compromise he would support.

“Everyone agrees wholeheartedly with everything that’s there, but that was the compromise that was reached between undergraduates, faculty, graduate students, and everyone,” he said.

“I personally didn’t disagree with people posting on the outsides of windows,” he said, but “there are so many thousands of small issues that arise when you open that door, and there are so many liabilities,” he said.

“An important consideration, that needs to be noted is that we were not dealing at all with the specifics of Jon Goler’s case,” Navot said.

“The policy on alterations and admissions was vague and outdated, and needed to be looked at.”

Exception possible, members say

Despite the stark language of the recommendation to ban all “materials” from the exterior of dormitories, Norman said the Housing Department might develop some exceptions.

“The Housing Department would have to develop all the specifics of how they would enforce this policy,” she said. “If there were any periods of exceptions, that would be again a housing implementation policy... for instance, whether or not, during Orientation, hanging banners would be acceptable or not.”

“That is not part of the discussion we wanted to get into because we believe that’s implementation,” she said.

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February 10, 2004

THE TECH Page 13

Flag Committee Report Excerpts


The committee was chaired by Associate Dean Julie B. Norman, and included Assistant Dean Katherine G. O’Dair, Burton-Conner Housemaster Halston W. Taylor, and Gabrielle Abelaire, the program manager of graduate residences. Nikli Johnson ’94 represented the Dormitory Council, Benjamin Navot ’07 represented the Undergraduate Association, and Vikas Anant G and Jennifer M. Pars V represented graduate students.

The MIT Housing Policy — Alterations and Additions — was reviewed for its purpose and appropriateness, particularly with respect to adornment inside or outside of a building. The policy reads, “Alterations to physical conditions of rooms and hallways (including painting, building, etc.) must be approved of by the House Manager. The majority of Residence Halls prohibit such alterations. Residents are not permitted to alter or add to any part of the building, structure, mechanical or electrical system.” This policy has been enforced, although reportedly inconsistently, to mean nothing may be hung outside any residence hall window. Although MIT has interpreted this policy to include hanging something outside a window, the committee felt the description of “altering or adding” was vague in this application. A more specific policy on adornment is warranted to supplement the “Additions and Alterations” policy.

Symbolic Materials and Personal Expression

The specific situation that led the Institute to a review of the housing policy was the flying of a flag outside a dorm window that resulted in a student filing a complaint raising concerns of the flying a flag and respect issues. The complainant maintained the flag represented an unwelcoming environment. The student who hung the flag claimed he had a right of freedom of speech or expression.

Principles of the First Amendment

A review of the housing policies of twelve universities was completed. The objective was to assess policies and other institutions regarding displaying materials on the exterior of a campus residence. Seven universities prohibit students from hanging or affixing anything from the exterior of a window, ledge, wall, etc. These include Brown University, Cornell University, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Suffolk University, and Tufts University.

Three universities had rather ambiguous policies, but specifically prohibited students from opening or removing screen windows in their dormitories. These institutions include Boston College, Boston University, and the University of Massachusetts. Dartmouth College and Northeastern University have no policies addressing windows, screens or displaying signage outside a campus residence.

The committee reviewed the housing policies of twelve institutions, including Boston University. The Housing Committee was the Ad Hoc Committee of the Housing Strategy Group Additions and Alterations Review, submitted to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, and included Assistant Dean Julie B. Norman, and comprised of Nikli Johnson ’94, Benjamin Navot ’07, Gabrielle Abelaire, the program manager of graduate residences, Nikli Johnson ’94, Benjamin Navot ’07, Gabrielle Abelaire, the program manager of graduate residences, and Vikas Anant G and Jennifer M. Pars V, representing graduate students.

The committee recognized that there are many perspectives that influence issues surrounding this housing policy and its enforcement — the diversity of the community, free exchange of ideas, the unacceptability of harassing or intimidating behavior, and respect for the maintenance and use of our facilities. Two principles were established that guided the recommendations of the committee:

1. Preservation of the architectural integrity of the exterior of buildings on the MIT campus complex.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are submitted to Dean Larry Benedict and the Housing Strategy Group:

1. No flags may be placed, affixed, hung or extended from any exterior surface of a MIT residence, including rooftops.
2. Each residence, through their house government, develop their own guidelines for materials that may be displayed within their residence.
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Provost Brown: MIT Finances Improving

By PanPan Yeh

Provost Robert A. Brown addressed the Undergraduate Association Senate last night at its first meeting of the semester, saying he has an optimistic view of MIT’s financial state.

“Everything is fine,” Brown said.

Following his talk, Brown took questions from the audience. Discussion topics included the future of fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, plans for Course XIII, and Biological Engineering’s potential status as a new major.

Brown says worst times are over

Provost Brown addressed the full budget reductions, which totaled $70 million dollars. Brown said that the most difficult financial times were “behind us.”

He then went on to discuss the budget cuts, and said that they were made with the primary intent of preserving academic quality.

In addition, Brown assured the senators that the decline in MIT’s endowment was nothing to worry about, stating that he trusted it enough to place his retirement fund in it.

Further FSILG support unknown

Brown was unable to answer questions about the future of funding for the FSILG system.

A three-year financial transition plan approved in 2001 gave money to FSILGs to assure the losses incurred from the lack of a freshman class.

Even though the plan is in place for one more year, Brown was not certain whether MIT would continue supporting FSILGs in years to come, or whether MIT would use that money to build new dormitories.

Course reorganization discussed

However, Brown did answer questions about changes in majors at MIT. He estimated that Biological Engineering would become a major by Fall 2005 and that Course XIII would merge with another course. However, Brown said that this new course would retain an Ocean Engineering option.

In addition, the UA spring 2004 budget and three bills were presented to be voted on at a later meeting.

Budget Cuts Expected, Impact to be Minimal

Layoffs, from Page 1

service.

Budget cuts planned in advance

“Our strategy began over a year ago” for meeting the budget cuts, Sirami said.

She said the department had to cut 7 percent of its budget for fiscal year 2004 and 17 percent for 2005.

Despite the cuts, facilities may still hire new heating and air conditioning mechanics and electricians if the need arises, Wallace said.

Facilities will “assess the effect on campus” of the layoffs from July to November, Wallace said, and will “make arguments for additional funding” during the next budget round next year.

He said that the department would need roughly five to ten percent more staff to provide a full level of service by previous MIT standards.

Cost saving alternatives suggested

Wallace said that facilities will try to make MIT more aware of the possible cost savings in simple changes, such as recycling.

He said that the cost of picking up and disposing of recycling was about half of the cost for normal waste.

He said that MIT spends approximately one million dollars a year disposing of its waste, so the savings could total several hundred thousand dollars.

MIT saved about $80,000 by switching paper towels alone, he said, the equivalent of two or three custodial jobs.

The goal is “to save service and to save jobs,” he said.

Custodian Found Dead

The body of an MIT night custodian was found in a men’s bathroom in Building 531 early Monday morning. MIT police said.

MIT Police Chief John DiFava said the MIT police received a call at 8 a.m. reporting that a men’s room door was “partially blocked.” According to the MIT police log, a caller reported a person in the men’s room of the first floor of Building 531 “in need of medical assistance.”

DiFava said that the man was later identified as an MIT custodian, and that the cause of death at the time appeared “to be natural causes.”

The investigation has been handed over to the city medical examiner and the District Attorney’s office in accordance with Massachusetts law, DiFava said.

—LAWREN LEWIN
Poor Criteria Used for ESPN’s Ultimate Standings

By Brian Chase

Sports fans, the really dedicated ones, love to argue about their favorite teams. I have heard endless conversations comparing the merits of the Yankees and the Red Sox, or the Kansas City Chiefs and the Denver Broncos. Even better are the arguments about the best players or teams of all time, such as whether the Patriots of the most recent football season are better or worse than the 1972 Dolphins team that went undefeated. Debates like this rage constantly around the water cooler and on the web.

Well, ESPN has just thrown fat on the proverbial fire, with their second annual “The Ultimate Standings.” This list that ranks every major sports franchise of professional football, hockey, basketball and baseball by eight major categories, ranging from Bang For The Buck (fan revenue divided by wins) to players, ownership, fan relations, and how many recent championships have been (or are expected to be) won. ESPN surveyed 3,000 fans for their opinions, ranked each team from 1-120 in each category, and then compiled the standings to get the ultimate standings. How do Boston sports teams rank? The answer may surprise you.

Boston’s best known sports team, the Red Sox, come in at 22 out of the 30 Major League Baseball teams, and 95th overall, the worst of Boston’s four teams. Why? They rated quite low in affordability and bang for the buck, because no matter how successful they are, baseball’s most expensive tickets offset their accomplishments. They also scored low in coaching and championships. Apparently, Boston fans don’t think they will win it all any time soon.

Boston’s best team, the New England Patriots, ranked as the fourth best football team and the 13th team overall. Their worst score was again in affordability, and without that weighing them down, they could have easily moved up a few spots, because they had excellent player, coach, and (obviously) championship scores. The only football teams rated ahead of them were the Green Bay Packers, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Tennessee Titans. The Boston Celtics were the 17th basketball team and 61st team overall, while the Boston Bruins were the 25th National Hockey League team and were 98th overall. Those two teams also scored worst in the affordability category, by a wide margin. Sensing a pattern?

Despite the extremely high ticket process for Boston sports, I can’t help feeling that the Red Sox and Patriots got shortchanged, somehow. The Patriots are the most dominant and team-oriented football program, winners of two Super Bowls in the last three years; they deserved to be first in the NFL rankings. The Red Sox have also been very successful in the last year, and surely don’t deserve a ranking below the Celtics and in the bottom half of the MLB. Why the discrepancy?

As ESPN writer Rob Neyer opined, the ultimate standings piece places more emphasis on all the varied aspects of fan enjoyment, and don’t make winning a huge part of the process. But winning is the process. Even if a sports team has a losing coach, greedy players, and a cramped stadium, their fans will love them if they win. Just look at the Yankees. If ESPN really wanted to make an ultimate standings, they should put winning percentages and championships on a much higher pedestal than nearly everything else. Maybe the Red Sox and Pats would get the higher recognition that they deserve, as would the city of Boston.