Temporary ID Cards are Issued

By Tiffany Chen

The MIT Card Office, located in E32 near MIT Medical, has run out of the standard gray striped student ID cards. In the meantime, it is providing temporary white ID cards to students who need replacement cards.

All other MIT ID cards have been unaffected, said John M. McDonald, Associate Director of Enterprise Services. The Card Office is located near MIT Medical.

McDonald said the temporary white ID cards function in the same way as regular student ID cards, providing access to certain campus buildings and TechCASH. The only difference is appearance, he said. He predicts the gray cards will arrive mid-November, though the final date has not been set.

Students using the temporary ID cards will need to exchange them for standard gray cards before the temporary card expiration date of Jan. 31, 2005, McDonald said.

McDonald said that the shortage of gray student ID cards was due to problems with the company that delivers the cards pre-printed to the Card Office. He said as a result of these printing problems, it is possible that future student ID cards may look different, for example having a white background.

Praesex Machina: Voting Tech '04

By Kelley Rivoire

Any democratic election seeks to elect the candidate with the greatest number of votes. But what happens when the votes aren't counted correctly? The two major technologies replacing many of the traditional methods of paper, punch cards, and lever machines are optical scan and Direct Electronic Register machines, or DREs.

Optical scan machines work similarly to paper ballots, but are scannable, and therefore countable, by computer. The optical scan machines are the dominant new technology used in the northeast, said Benjamin M. Adida, a graduate student working on the VTP. The optical scan machines in Massachusetts include a feature that allows voters to assure that their ballot scans properly before exiting the polling place.

DREs, on the other hand, are entirely computer-based. The voter uses a computer interface to electronically record his choices, and a database stores the results.

In addition to the better tabulation, optical scan machines have the benefit of good recovery of votes if necessary, while DREs provide advantages in the user interface, as users can easily adjust the typeface and language, said Professor Stephen Ansolabehere, a member of the VTP.

In the 2000 election, 37.5 percent of voters used either optical scan or DREs, this year, based on statistics of registered voters, that number will jump to around 65 percent, Selker said.

All the voting machines that will be used in this election have been tested in previous elections, such as in 2002, Selker said.

New systems improve accuracy

How much do these new technologies improve the success rate at which votes are counted correctly, and how is this improvement measured?

One convenient metric is the residual vote, or the difference between the total number of ballots cast in an election and the number of votes counted in any particular race. This gives an indication of the number of ballots for a given race that were not counted.

In the 2000 election, the residual vote was about two percent, said Ansolabehere. The new voting technologies have the potential to “reduce the errors gigantically,” Selker said. In the 2002 Georgia gubernatorial election, the use of DREs reduced the residual voting error to 0.4 percent.
Iraqi Explosives Disappeared Since Fall of Saddam Hussein

By William J. Broad and David E. Sanger
The New York Times

A team made by a television crew that was with U.S. troops when they opened bunkers at a sprawling Iraqi munitions complex south of Baghdad shows a huge supply of explosives that were still there nine days after the fall of Saddam Hussein, apparently including some seized earlier by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The tape, broadcast Thursday by ABC News, appeared to confirm suspicions reported earlier this month to the IAEA by Iraqi officials, who said that hundreds of tons of high-grade explosives, powerful enough to bring down buildings or detonate nuclear weapons, had vanished from the Al-Qaqaa site after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

The question of whether the material was removed by Sad- dam’s forces in the days before the invasion, or footed later because it became a heated dispute in the U.S. presidential campaign, with Sen. John Kerry accusing Presi- dent Bush of incompetence and Bush saying it is unclear when the material disappeared and rejecting what he calls Kerry’s “wild charges.”

Weapons experts familiar with the work of the international inspectors in Iraq say the videotape appears identical to photographs that the inspectors took of the explosives, which were put under seal before the war. One frame shows what the experts say is a seal, with narrow wires that would have to be broken if anyone entered through the main door of the bunker.

The agency said that when it left Iraq in mid-March, only days before the war began, the only bunkers bearing its seals at the huge complex contained the explosive known as HMX, which the agency had monitored because it could be used in a nuclear weapons program. It is now clear that program had ground to a halt.

The New York Times and CBS reported on Monday that Iraqi offi- cials had told the IAEA earlier this month that the explosives were missing — and that they had lost- ed after April 9, 2003, the day Baghdad fell. Thursday evening, the Pentagon released a satellite image of the complex taken just two days after the inspectors left, showing a few trucks parked in front of some bunkers. It is not clear they are the bunkers with the high explosives. “All we are trying to demonstrate is that after the IAEA left, and the place was under Saddam’s control, there was activi- ty,” said Lawrence DiRosa, the Pen- tagon spokesman. It is not clear from the photo what activity, if any, was under way.

On Thursday, a top Iraqi official said the interim government had spoken to witnesses who said the material was still at Al-Qaqaa at the time Baghdad fell.

The videotape broadcast Thurs- day, taken by KSTP-TV, an ABC affiliate in Minneapolis-St. Paul, shows troops breaking into a bunker and opening boxes and examining barrels. Many of the containers are marked “explosive.” One box is marked “Al-Qaqaa State Establishment,” apparently a shipping label from a manufactur- er.

The ABC crew said the video was taken on April 18. The timing is critical to the debate under way in the presidential campaign. By the Pentagon’s own account, units of the 101st Airborne Division were in the area of Al-Qaqaa for what DiRi- ta said was “two to three weeks,” starting April 10.

Palestinian Politics Uncertain As Arafat Seeks Medical Care

By Greg Myre and Steven Erlanger
The New York Times

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, will be flown to Paris and hospitalized for the mysterious two- week-old ailment that has seriously weakened him, Palestinian officials said Thursday evening, raising con- cerns that Palestinian politics could be plunged into turmoil.

Arafat, who is 75, is the symbol of the Palestinian people and their long fight for a state, is to fly by helicopter on Friday morning to Amman, Jordan, and then by plane to Paris, said Mahmoud Abbas, a Palestinian businessman close to Arafat. The French government said it would provide the plane.

The exact nature of Arafat’s ill- ness is unclear. He has grown increasingly frail, is unable to keep food down and is suffering from per- sistent vomiting and diarrhea uncon- trolled by medication, aides say. In addition, he has a large, painful gall- stone, according to some associates.

Arafat’s abrupt declining health raised immediate questions about his successor and the stability of the Palestinian Authority. The West Bank and Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have come to demonstrate is that after the war began, the only bunkers bearing its seals at the huge complex contained the explosive known as HMX, which the agency had monitored because it could be used in a nuclear weapons program. It is now clear that program had ground to a halt.

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The New York Times

Abducted by Taliban-linked Group
Election Workers in Afghanistan

By Keith Bradsher

and Jim Yardley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

October 29, 2004

THE TECH

Survey Finds Increase
In Iraqi Civilian Deaths

By Bryan Bender and Scott Allen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The first nationwide survey of Iraqi deaths since the US-led invasion concludes that about 100,000 people have died as a result of the war, including many women and children killed in coalition air strikes.

The study last month by researchers at Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, and Al-Mustansiriya University in Baghdad, based on interviews with about 800 randomly selected Iraqi house- holds, derived an estimated Iraqi death toll at least three times higher than previous estimates based on media reports. The study found that the risk of death in the 18 months since the war began was 11(R1) to 2.3(R1) times higher than before the war, and the risk of a violent death was 58(R1) times higher.

"Making conservative assumptions, we think that about 100,000 excess deaths have occurred," said Prof. Eetroit. "Most of the violence targeting civilians are most violent deaths . . . the majority being violent death among women and children relating to military activity.

Survey: Increase in Iraq Civilian Deaths

By John Noble Wilford

The Cassini spacecraft's first radar images of Saturn's largest moon, Titan, have revealed a diverse frozen landscape of bright strips that may be ice ridges or wind-driven deposits, and dark regions that are probably smooth basins filled with dirty ice— or, in some places, lakes of exotic liquid.

If they didn't displace the mystery of Titan, the black-and-white radar images gave scientists tantalizing clues to challenge or revive some hypotheses about the nature of the surface and interior. But scientists had learned beneath the perpetual smog of a dense atmosphere. It is the only moon in the solar system to have a liquid or a gaseous surface, with evidence of a complex, organic, or carbon-based, chemistry that could yield insights into processes that led to life on the early Earth.

In its close encounter with Titan on Tuesday, the Cassini space- craft generated the opaque atmosphere with cameras, infrared sen- sors, and a radar system designed to map hidden landscapes. The first processed radar images were made public on Thursday by scientists here at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The images showed that the moon's surface was made up of smooth basins and raised terrains and that the terrain was covered with thick smog.

A news conference, Dr. Charles Elachi, director of the laborato- ry, who is also leader of the radar investigation, said that the radar works only on the moon's largest basins, covering about 1 percent of the planet-sized moon's surface. Bright regions in the radar images represented rough terrain, and darker areas were inter- preted as smooth, flat surfaces.

GM Plans 10,000
Temporary Layoffs

By Danny Hakim

General Motors said Thursday that it would temporarily lay off more than 10,000 workers at several North American plants over the next two weeks because of weak demand. The company said it would lay off about 10,000 workers at five plants that mostly produce sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks.

The moves, which were reported by The Detroit Free Press on Thursday, are a further sign that the sales of the largest SUVs are under pressure amid unusually high gas prices—currently averaging more than $2 a gallon, according to the Energy Information Administration.

GM, the world's largest automaker, also has a line of large SUVs and pickup trucks that is several years old and is facing a lot of new competition from foreign automakers.

Though sales for many SUV models have held up well this year, GM has been spending more on rebates and other incentives per vehicle than any other company, according to Edmunds.com, which tracks sales into auto dealers. The price of an SUV has risen over the past year because of the greater market segment has had higher levels of incentives than large SUVs, according to Edmunds.

GM's cuts announced Thursday are the latest in a series of cuts by General Motors, which is facing a struggle from Japanese and European automakers that are selling cars for less and are selling vehicles that are more fuel efficient.

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Fading the Problems of the New Century

By Ken Nessmuk and Beckett W. Sterner

Four years ago, George W. Bush eked his way into the Oval Office, having earned not so much the mandate of the American people as that of the Supreme Court. While many speculated that the less than polished son of privilege would respond to the challenge of high office by forging a relatively moderate administration, Bush has long since shattered such notions. Instead, his term has been characterized by an unabashed commitment to preemptive war, a cavalier disregard for international law, a notion of a war on terror withstanding no serious legal scrutiny, and an ideological bent that it is little surprise that entering the twenty-first century it is a simple evaluation of the two campaigns.

The September 11 attacks had an unintended side effect of galvanizing the American public into supporting a more active abroad and a more interventionist president and his policies. In the time since, he has squandered that support, his bungling of a war against terrorism plummeting him to a loss of 90 percent following the attacks to a current level of about 50 percent. The war in Iraq, with its now notoriously tenuous justifications, has morphed into a modern Vietnam, continuing to cost lives and dollars at an alarming rate while alienating the United States from traditional allies and potentially provoking the hatred needed to feed a generation of terrorists. Bush’s arrogant disregard for building international support “Poland notwithstanding” has created a situation in which over three-quarters of coalition forces are American men and women who should either be safe at home or fighting more useful battles such as the war against terror and Osama bin Laden.

Closer to home, government spending policies have been perplexing. While corporations and the rich have benefited from significant tax breaks, average Americans have been given anemic spending cuts. It’s an alarming rate while alienating the United States from traditional allies and potentially provoking the hatred needed to feed a generation of terrorists. Bush’s arrogant disregard for building international support “Poland notwithstanding” has created a situation in which over three-quarters of coalition forces are American men and women who should either be safe at home or fighting more useful battles such as the war against terror and Osama bin Laden. The Kerry camp believes that some countries matter much more than others, and particularly, that France and Germany comprise the misshambles of regressive policies. George Bush offers a more certain and clear way forward in the right direction.

The end of the Cold War is a relatively recent event, and its aftermath is still being felt. In the power relations defining bipolarity, we see a fleeting power dynamic that will settle on some combination of American hegemony, multipolarity among the major powers, or a world split. That, in fact, is George Bush’s approach. This “go-it-alone” administration is seeking to work with over 60 nations on combating weapons of mass destruction proliferation worldwide, and has had success doing so, interrupting the A.Q. Khan network, convincing Libya to voluntarily disarm, and creating a global force to prevent proliferation of rogue weapons. On North Korea, the administration has found the right approach, adjusting six-party talks to address a terrible problem. The administration describes the situation.

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Writing on Wednesday night, I can say that my worst nightmare has finally happened — the 2004 World Series is between the Boston Red Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals. I saw this coming two months ago, and I’m still kicking myself for not betting money on it. By now, you have probably guessed — I’m a St. Louis native who lives in Boston.

Some may not understand my confusion. The few St. Louis people I know here feel certain that I would never even consider rooting for the Red Sox during the series. Meanwhile, my Boston friends insist that I have been rooting for the Sox for so long and have felt so much frustration that I must want to see the Cardinals win. I can kind of understand the mention wanting to see the whole city go insane for a few days.

These sorts of problems almost never hap-
pens. In the eleven years I’ve been in Boston, the Cards and the Sox have only played one interleague series against each other. I was perfectly happy to root for both teams — one National League, the other American League — with the knowledge that the odds were stacked against them playing each other outside of a short interleague series. Well, Ortiz hit that idea out of the park, along with a few of those Yankee pitches. I’m in the middle of my all-insane for a few days.

I’m in the middle of my all-idea out of the park, along with a few of those stacked against them playing each other outside

I thought it was bad when the Rams played in Super Bowl XXXVII! That was nothing! I grew up with pennants of the 1982 Car-
dinals and Lou Brock hanging on my wall. I can’t count the number of times I’m necessary to win a Cardinals baseball cap, and I certainly never turned down a chance to see a game.

I’ve bragged that pitchers don’t stand a chance against the Cardinals’ rotation. I’ve taken
tickets on the cards to win the World Series play and sat with anticipation whenever Pujols went to bat. I even said a few not so nice things about Taveras and that left-hand breaking temper tantrum of his.

Now, no one needs to be told that the Sox is all about the Sox. For goodness sakes, Birmingham’s Ice Cream came out with a “Reverse the Curse” ice cream flavor to further support the Red Sox. I have been in this town since 1993, and I have seen a lot (although those col-
lege years are still a blur to me). I’ve seen Roger Clemens and Nomar leave town, Pedro’s domi-
-nant two-seam heater, and Manny Ramirez. Of course, I’ve also been there for the frustration of last heart breaking moment (Pedro, ALCS, World Series), the “Nature of Baseball”, said that I can’t choose between my teams. One of my friends, another Boston

I'm puzzled as to what that has to do with the Boston Police, the party guilty of the murder. A MIT police lieutenant is in touch with the Police Chief in St. Louis and are not answerable to any board of review. I have not been in touch with the Police Chief DiFava is involved with these demonstrations as yet unchecked police excess-

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Filler Space  ELECTIONS: THE CASE FOR ABSOLUTE MONARCHY
by Jason Burns

Trio  Character profiles and comic archives. ALUM.MIT.EDU/W/W/W/WME
by Emezie Okoraror

Deviants from the Norm  by A.K. Turza
It's All About Bits and Cache

Worlds Beyond the Mackerel

Page 8

By Mark Liao

By Alkay Patil

CAMPUS LIFE

CAMPUS LIFE

I've got a serious case of hardware envy. The thing sounds strange to you, the people unacquainted with the greekness of this column. Even for those of you who might know, this is nothing new.

A large LCD monitor is enough to make me feel seriously inadequate. Where I'm around dual processors, I can just feel the air buzzing with excitement. It's just like that sort of air that, memed, stuck between a head and a mouth. And, you have me, and I'm feeling seriously inadequate. When I'm around dual processors, I can just feel the air buzzing with excitement. It's just like that sort of air that, memed, stuck between a head and a mouth.

Now I've spent the last few days trying to come to terms with this traumatic experience. How do your parents feel about you being a sex columnist? I don't usually talk about women's badminton, but I'm feeling particularly put-off by the fact that a Bush and Dick are running our country.

You can get this stuff for under $10 at any of the local Asian markets. As I expected to hear from my father. What's worse is when he started to give me some noodles or ramen. My mom likes to put some toast in the toaster and making a sandwich of it with mayo. I've been told that it tastes great with butter instead of mayo, but personally I think that's something.

A Patriot pledge is a step up which includes having sex with each other on election night. A Patriot pledge is a step up which includes having sex with each other on election night. A Patriot pledge is a step up which includes having sex with each other on election night.

I'm feeling particularly put-off by the fact that a Bush and Dick are running our country.

By Danchai Mekadensuporn

CAMPUS LIFE COLUMNIST

I could tell you how important your vote is. But I need to be strong. Some say that sex isn't important is stupid. Because you don't really expect their sentiment, they changed their minds. After all, I'm feeling particularly put-off by the fact that a Bush and Dick are running our country.
In the Parlance of Our Times
You Have No Frame of Reference Here...

By Zach Ozer

The Red Sox. John Forbes Kerry. It seems like the good lord has blessed the state of Massachusetts with more than its fair share of fortune.

Some would argue that these events are not good luck, but rather satisfaction for the many slaps in the face that Massachusetts has received over the course of the past 86 years. This view, although appealing, is incomplete. Let us, for a moment, look at these events as the original settlers of Massachusetts would have.

For those not familiar with the history of the Commonwealth, it was originally settled by Puritans, a religious group who believed that individuals should be reformed by the grace of god and humbled by the knowledge that without him, they would face a life of eternal damnation. They did not believe in superstition, luck, coincidences, or pleasure of any kind. For any good Puritan, it would seem that damnation bears more than a passing resemblance to Jesus. Result: Sox are saved.

Let us analyze the facts. Massachusetts is a cold, miserable place about 80 percent of any given year. Sure, the snow is fun the first couple of days, but after that, everything stays cold and wet for months. There’s the rain in between seasons. During the summer, the humidity goes through the roof and, despite the fact that it’s freezing all winter, the temperature goes up to 90 degrees most days of the summer. And then, to top it all off, the Red Sox lose. Yep. The good lord loves to hate Boston. That should make one more than slightly suspicious about his motives for letting John Kerry get the presidential nomination and letting the Red Sox go to the World Series.

“But they’re independent events!” a 6.041 colleague of mine said. I can’t prove him wrong, given that I’m writing this article in the middle of lecture, but I think he’s right. If one looks at the history of the Red Sox losing and compares it to the presidential elections of the 20th century, some striking correlations become readily apparent. Up to 1901, the only major party candidates from Massachusetts were a father and son team: John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Combined, they ran six times and won only twice, once a piece.

Since 1901, three candidates have been from Massachusetts: Calvin Coolidge in 1924, Kennedy in 1960, and Michael Dukakis in 1988. In the years that the Sox were winning the series, 1901–1918, no one from Massachusetts even got a party nomination, and then, in 1924, Coolidge is elected into office... or was he?

Actually, he’d served as VP and took over the office in 1923, then stole the election a year later. So did he really win? Not really. Pattern: Sox win, candidate should lose. Skip to 1946 and 1948. Sox lose the series. Kennedy wins the presidency in 1960, although some would say that Nixon actually won. In 1967, Sox lose again. Pattern: Massachusetts even got a party nomination, and then, in 1924, Coolidge is elected into office... or was he?

Finally, Dukakis in 1988. This was two years after the infamous Bill Buckner incident at the World Series. The Sox were robbed of the series. Pattern: Candidate loses big, Sox robbed of the series.

With this information under my belt, I feel good enough to predict this year’s election as well as the outcome of the World Series (which everyone will already know by the time you read this). The Puritans would not have considered it mere coincidence that the man who single-handedly saved the Red Sox from eternal damnation bears more than a passing resemblance to Jesus. Result: Sox are saved.

Given the information that when the Red Sox win, the candidate who wins must steal the election, I feel confident predicting that George W. Bush will be re-elected to the presidency. That or this election’s going Indecision 2000 style with Kerry pulling off a Game 5 David Ortiz-style steal in the Supreme Court. Maybe the curse of the Bambino is still around and we’re just sharing the love with the rest of the country. Misery loves company. Why do you think Texans voted Bush into office?
The Tech: You're political background began with the neighborhood association in Back Bay?

Marty Walz: My political background began as a small child, actually. Seriously. My parents were very involved in political campaigns when I was growing up, and so they used to send my brothers and sisters and I out door to door to campaign for different people. This was back in the 1960's in the day where kids could wander around in the neighborhood unsupervised and we used to think twice of it. And we were living in this highly Republican town outside of Rochester, New York, and we were one of the only Democrat families, and I'm convinced my parents sent the cute kids out going door to door so that they didn't get yelled at by their neighbors. But I've been working on campaigns as a volunteer literally for as long as I can remember. I don't remember a time when I wasn't in every fall politics in people's homes or I wasn't outside getting yard work. I've been working on campaigns for the registry of motor vehicles was just smarter and more efficiently. For years, I don't know if you quite line prices are going up and oil's at over fifty dollars a barrel. It's more of a healthy business climate. It'll create more spending on business. Same thing with their restaurant in their dining hall, which is run by Sodexho…

The Tech: How do you see this experience bearing on the kind of typical government issues like education or health care or social security?

Richard Babson: There are three candidates running for the seat, representing the Republican, Democratic and recently formed America First parties. The Tech sat down for an hour-long interview with each in the past two weeks, excerpts of which are given below. The interviews ranged over national, state and local issues, with each candidate presenting distinctive answers to many of the questions facing Massachusetts and the U.S. today. At a time when the states are deciding many problems with national import, such as gay marriage, our representatives to state legislature should not be forgotten in the race to Tuesday.

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Globally, every city, every state, every country, every society, they all have unique problems that they need to deal with. And, often, very specific steps can be taken to address those problems. One example that comes to mind is the issue of multi-unit housing. In many cities, the lack of affordable housing is a significant challenge. The city or the state can do several things to address this issue. They can, for example, set aside land specifically for affordable housing, or they can provide financial incentives to developers to build affordable units.

But, just like you said, this is a complex issue. It requires careful planning and consideration. And, it's important to work with the developers who are interested in building these units, to make sure that they are doing it in a way that is feasible and cost-effective.

TT: Well, you've said that you're in support of gay marriage as a right, but you also recently accepted the endorsement of Gover- nors Walz and Dayton. How do you feel that this issue is, in your view, the Republican Party's stance on gay marriage?

RB: I've been a Republican for a long time, for most of my life, and in Massachusetts the Republican Party, you know, I've been associated with Richard Farnsworth and the late Governor Francis Sargent or Frank Hatch, all, even Bill Weld more recently, and I've been like I think Governor Weld, for instance, in favor of same-sex marriage. I think he actually officiated at one of those friends of his. This was something that he was interested in. The Massachusetts Republican Party that I was running, this is all part of package, it's something that I feel very strongly about. It's something that the American people have a right to, not to be denied to them, to have the right to have a marriage, in the sense of being able to go to the state, to the federal government, to have it recognized, and to have the rights that come with it.

TT: Well, you've said that you're in support of gay marriage as a right, but you also recently accepted the endorsement of Governors Walz and Dayton. How do you feel that this issue is, in your view, the Republican Party's stance on gay marriage?

RB: It's a very important issue, and I think it's a very important issue for the Republican Party. And, I think it's important for the American people to have a say in what the Republican Party's stance on gay marriage should be. And, I think it's important for the American people to have a say in what the Republican Party's stance on all issues should be.

TT: Well, we're going to need to get more revenue. It's not very complicated. We've got to have enough money to do all the things that we want to do, and we've got to do it in a way that is fair and equitable. And, we've got to do it in a way that is sustainable. And, we've got to do it in a way that is good for our economy.

RB: It's very important. And, I think it's very important for the American people to have a say in what the Republican Party's stance on revenue should be. And, I think it's very important for the American people to have a say in what the Republican Party's stance on all issues should be.

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Voting Systems Designed to Improve Accuracy

October 29, 2004

The new voting technologies in place, should we worry more or less than controversy in 2000. Stewart said. However, he added, “because of greater press scrutiny, it may appear,” that things are worse.

Stewart expects that he will have “good new litigations this time around including more frivolous litigations,” as thousands of lawyers are already preparing themselves for days in court.

Ansolabehere said, however, that he anticipates that the courts have no systematic standard for ballot design exists, and many ballots are poorly designed. Stewart said that the usability of DREs is questionable, as no studies have determined whether the user interfaces will confuse voters.

Lack of paper trail concerns some How will these new technologies fare in the event of a recount? One common complaint from adversaries of the new voting technology is that there is not a paper trail in many electronic voting machines, leaving no contingency plan for a recount.

“T’ll be people who will not believe the outcome because they can’t see a paper ballot,” Stewart said.

The optical scan machines are therefore considered by some to be superior to DREs, as they produce a paper record. If the result is questionable, “you can go back and check the paper,” Adida said. DREs that have been modified to include a paper trail don’t necessarily solve this problem, rather, they can introduce more serious problems as a result the mechanical systems that output the paper. Printers can jam or run out of ink, necessitating that poll workers open the printer, allowing for the possibility of accidental or intentional tampering with the results, said Stewart.

In addition, many small counties do not have the capabilities to properly monitor the new technologies. “Rural counties don’t have the capacity to deal with equipment,” in terms of storing and maintaining the machines, said Ansolabehere. “If we move further into electronic voting, rural counties will have to have companies run their elections for them,” he said.

The ballot design and user interface of the new technologies also remain largely untested. Sekler said.

Ansolabehere said, however, that he anticipates that the courts have learned that election disputes must be resolved quickly, and he expects that any election-related litigation will be consolidated and resolved in a timely manner.

The new technologies, particularly DREs, also rely on poll workers for their results to be reliable. DREs require that the count on the machine be recorded prior to the election. Should a poll worker fail to record this number, or do so incorrectly, the results from the DREs would be invalid, Sekler said. “It’s really important that there always be a lot of eyes monitoring elections, including the recording of the initial count, Stewart said.

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Deutsche Bank
Wiring, Signs Moved from Halls

October 29, 2004

Quinn Mahoney ‘05, a resident of East Campus 2nd West, said he did not agree with some of the changes requested of the residents. “They objected to the way we had installed” wiring for a music server and security cameras put up “for fun,” he said. The music server allowed residents of to play music along that hall and in showers.

Mahoney said that by last Friday when the second inspection occurred, the cameras and music server with its wiring had been uninstalled. However, he said he hoped eventually, with Barber’s help, they would be able to put it back up in a way that complied with safety requirements.

Mahoney said the cameras and music server were installed around 1997 or 1998. “In the past they had cooperated and did a super job,” he said. “We worked with all the residents of East Campus, house masters” and house managers to make the changes, Nilsson said. “Everyone cooperated and did a super job, she said.

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Mahoney said the cameras and music server were installed around 1997 or 1998. “In the past they had been more lenient,” with fire code he said. “I think a lot of the [requested changes were] unreasonable,” and based on what he saw of the professional wiring “students sometimes do a better job” than the contractors” said Mahoney, a Course VI major.

“We did everything we could to please” the inspector because he could come back more frequently if he was not satisfied, Mahoney said.

2004 inspections were more strict

Barber speculated that part of the reason East Campus did not initially pass the fire inspections was “this year the inspector was one of the more thorough” ones. He said the Cambridge inspection officials rotated locations so a particular inspector might visit MIT once every five years. Also, a 2003 nightclub fire in Rhode Island that killed about 100 people caused a general rise in fire safety awareness, he said.

If anything were to happen, the fire inspector would be held personally accountable, Barber said.

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Solution to Crossword from page 7

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Inspiring “Red Sox Won” Photo Spread Head

For the first time since 1918, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series, defeating the St. Louis Cardinals in just four games. Signs wishing the Sox well hung everywhere, as people gathered once again in Kenmore Square to celebrate the victory. Counterclockwise from left:

Boston Red Sox fans set off sparklers in Kenmore Square.

Rioters wave a Red Sox flag in Kenmore Square.

A “Go Sox” banner hangs Wednesday morning on MacGregor.

Thousands of people gather in Kenmore Square.

A fan sits atop a traffic light pole moments before he fell, miraculously uninjured, to the pavement.

Boston Police explain to a few Boston University students that they will not be permitted to return to their apartment because of the rioting.
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Comcast Cable

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MIT - Sloan E51-151
12:00 (NOON) to 1:00 PM

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Women’s Lightweight Improves at Regatta

By Cynthia Lin and Kathleen Yeh

The MIT varsity lightweight women’s crew team raced an eight-member boat and a four-member boat at the Head of the Charles last Sunday afternoon, placing eighth and eleventh, respectively.

Despite the threat of rain, there was a great turn out by fans of MIT’s lightweight crew who positioned themselves at each bridge along the shortened 2.3-mile racecourse. The team was up against crews from various rowing clubs in the country, as well as the strong collegiate teams of Princeton, Radcliffe, Georgetown, Stanford, Berkeley, Villanova, and Susquehanna.

The varsity eight — Josephine Dull ‘08 (coxswain), Laura C. Harris ’07, Cynthia Lin ’07, Katherine Yeh ’07, Kate Madden ’08, Sarah F. Newman ’06, Cathy Yao ’06, Mary Elizabeth Bisker ’06 (bow) — finished with a time of 14:00.809. While the women’s lightweight program is only in its second year at MIT, the small squad of sixteen rowers and two coxswains is improving dramatically. “The eight moved from the bottom of their event last year to a very competitive position in the middle of the field,” said Congram. He expressed excitement that MIT is “beating crews who had beaten them by large margins last year.”

Previously this fall, the eight won a gold medal while the four came in fourth place at the River Regatta on Oct. 3. The team followed this race with a solid performance on Oct. 16 at the New England Championships, but a competitive lightweight crew against many superior rowers. The Tech women are excited about a strong finish to the fall season on Nov. 13 at the Foot of the Charles.

Mit men’s water polo co-captain David D. Lowrey ’05 bounces the ball against the water with a powerful slam, leaving the Brown University goalies dumbfounded as he slips it from the scissor. Brown University won last Wednesday’s match, 7-6, in a sudden death period after MIT was unable to hold on to the lead they created in the first overtime.

NFC Prospects in the Postseason

By Yong-yi Zhu

Last week we took a look at the contenders and pretenders in the AFC. This week we move to the NFC. Separate two columns: those fighting for a playoff spot from those who are merely masquerading as postseason hopefuls.

The top class of teams in this conference are clearly the Philadelphia Eagles and the Minnesota Vikings. The Eagles are perfect, despite having gone into overtime against the Browns. Their offense, behind the combination of quarterback Donovan McNabb and receiver Terrell Owens, has really lit it up. McNabb has the third most passing yards in the conference and boasts a great 105.6 quarterback rating. Terrell Owens is third in the conference in receiving yards and is tops for receiving touchdowns. I guess he can no longer complain about not getting the ball.

On defense, the Eagles are not terrific and that is why they had to go into overtime against a mediocre Cleveland team. They have not had yet much combination, but they have beaten Minnesota and they will face a test in Baltimore this week. The Eagles do benefit greatly from being in a relatively weak division. Minnesota is looking like the Minnesota we have come to love: no defense, great offense. They have the top offense in the NFC and with QB Daunte Culpepper rolling on the way he does every Sunday, they are tough to stop. They didn’t even have Randy Moss last week and they still got 313 net yards on the Tennessee Titans. However, with the third worst defense in the conference, Minnesota will need all that offense to offset the opponents’ scoring.

The NFC is much weaker than the AFC, and their mediocrity was in full show this past weekend. After the big two, the rest of the teams seem to be all on the same plane and all susceptible to being beaten by any team at any time.

We thought a couple of weeks back that Seattle, St. Louis, Atlanta and New York would be among the top dogs in the NFC. Boy did this past weekend prove us wrong.

The Seattle Seahawks have been in a freefall ever since their loss to St. Louis. They did not have a good showing against the Patriots, and they did not even beat the lowly Cardinals. What a sad turnaround it has been for them.

St. Louis has tried to take advantage of the Seahawks slip, but even they failed to grab a definitive hold over the Seahawks. They did have a great rushing defense, but that clearly went out the window when Priest Holmes, Derrick Blaylock, and the rest of the KC Chiefs’ Red Sea parted the Falcon defense for eight touchdowns on the ground. On the other side of the ball, Michael Vick was not very effective throwing for seven of 21 with no touchdowns and two interceptions.

In fact, the Falcons needed a tactically bad decision from the San Diego Chargers just to pull it out that win, and they almost lost to both the Dolphins and the Cadillacs.

The Giants are also a back and forth team. They never know what to expect from them. True, their two losses have been to respectable teams in Philly and Detroit, but we just don’t know what kind of chutz-pah is holding that offensive line together and when Kurt Warner is going to lose his touch. But all those uncertainties just mean that Tom Coughlin is a strong coach of the year candidate.

Elsewhere, the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions are fighting for a wildcard spot in the playoffs. While the Packers are the team that looks great on paper but horrible during games, the Lions may be the biggest surprise out of the NFC. The Packers have all the offensive weapons they need in QB Brett Favre (who has suffered from some too many tragedies and disappointments in this past year), running back Ahman Green, Donald Driver, and Javon Walker. In fact, they are second in the NFL in yards per game. They sometimes show flashes of brilliance, as was the case during games, the Lions may be as strong as 3-3-4 record, they made it to the playoffs last year. I look for them to contend with Minnesota for the NFC North.

Then, there are the Lions. Their problem is that they are stacked in a tough division with two strong teams around them. They are talented, though, and with QB Joey Harrington hooking up with wide receiver Roy Williams, they can win any game they play.

Perhaps the Lions are a year premature, but there is nothing wrong with trying to make a playoff push a year too early. Perhaps the lack of pressure on them also helps them outside of these teams, and maybe the Saints, the rest of the NFC will keep everyone holding their breath until week 17.

THE TECH Page 23
By Caitlin Murray

MIT Women’s Soccer Wins 2–1

MIT’s last game of the regular season was a crushing victory over the Engineers, finalizing MIT’s best record in the conference in years.

The 2005-2006 Innovation Fellowships at Stanford University.

SPORTS

MIT Women’s Soccer Wins 2–1

Off the ball of Renteria, into the goal, Keith Fordieco and the glove of Minkiewicz, and the Column curse was finally over.

Congratulations to the Boston Red Sox!

After 86 years of pain and torment, the Boston Bosox finally won the World Series and ended the curse of the Bambino. After completing the best comeback in sports history against the New York Yankees last Wednesday, it seemed inevitable that the Sox would become the World Series champions and they did it in a convincing fashion. They swept the Cardinals and they never trailed in the entire World Series.

In fact, after the last loss to the Yankees in game 3 of the American League Championship Series, the Red Sox began their crusade for the crown, led by “Jesus” Johnny Damon himself, to eight straight victories.

When the Red Sox needed their pitching to step up, the starting pitchers stepped up. The only game the Cardinals were able to score in was Game 1, when a large run deficit early on. After that, the Cardinals, the top offensive team in major league baseball, only scored three more runs the rest of the series.

 Curt Schilling, sutured ankle and all, gave up no earned runs in six innings in Game 2. Not only did he give the Sox the solid performance they needed, but he did it at the expense of his health. Schilling bled Boston red. Pedro Martinez continued the pitching dominance in Game 3. He only allowed three hits, and despite being wild at times, his pitches gave hitters trouble all night long.

Finally, Derek Lowe finished off the Cardinals in Game 4 with his own 2-hit, 7-inning masterpiece. Lowe was never in trouble and pitched comfortably all game long. The bullpen for the Sox was also amazing as everyone delivered in all the key situations. Timlin, Embree, Arroyo, Foulke all brought their best stuff to keep the Cards scoreless.

The hitting of the Sox exceeded just at the right times this series. After Johnny Damon was ice cold at the plate for almost the entire ALCS, he woke up and led off the World Series with a win-claiming homerun. Mark Bellhorn also homered in the most critical situations during the series. David Ortiz was great offensively, and he didn’t make a defensive mistake at any point during the series.

Manny Ramirez was on a seventeen-game hitting streak, and his defense through all the doubleplays helped the Sox, especially in game three. He was awarded the Most Valuable Player for the World Series.

Perhaps the Sox’s World Series loss in 1996 was a sign that the Sox simply were not good enough. Perhaps the Boston Sox Series loss in 1996 was a sign that the Sox could eventually take 86 years to end their curse of losing. Whatever the reason for the long wait, it has simply made the Red Sox’s eventual triumph much sweeter.

Women’s Volleyball Strong Going into Title Match

An MIT injury, two Wellesley injuries, a smashed lamp, a hitter referee, 50-degree weather, 19 fouls, and defensive miscommunications all failed to dampen the excitement of the soccer game, as MIT ground out a victory 2–1 in overtime. The Women’s Tech Blue, improving MIT’s record to 8–5–4 despite Wellesley’s commanding performance throughout the game.

Although Wellesley controlled the ball almost exclusively in the first half, the only point on the board at half time was scored by the Engineers.

Eighteen minutes into the game, after an.ls march into Tech territory by the Blue, Meghan O’Kane ’06 headed the ball away from a defender into Wellesley territory to Amy S. Ludlum ’08. In what turned out to be MIT’s only scoring opportunity of the first half, Ludlum sprung up the middle, found herself around two defenders lagging at her heels, and as the Wellesley keeper came out to challenge, slipped the ball past her into the opposite corner of the goal.

Despite the screaming extortionists from their coach to “Wake up and play some soccer now!” and 14 shots on goal, the Wellesley Blue was not able to score on MIT’s goalkeeper, Katherine A. Vater ’07, who maintained her standing as first in the conference in saves.

Although a bit weaker than during the first half, Wellesley still penetrated Tech territory frequently in the first half, Wellesley still maintained her standing as first in the conference in saves.

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