MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

Volume 124, Number 58 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Friday, December 3, 2004

NEWS

Former UA VP was not registered as student in fall term. Page 13
MIT leads new nuclear energy lab Page 8
Comics

By Beckett W. Sterner

MIT Undergrads Now Able To Serve on MITFCU Board

As winter approaches, the early twilight catches students and faculty hungrily home.

Janet Zhou Nominated New UA VP

By Beckett W. Sterner

MIT Undergrads Named To Serve on MITFCU Board

By Beckett W. Sterner

The Executive Committee of the Corporation voted unanimously to approve the merger of the Department of Ocean Engineering into the Department of Mechanical Engineering, effective January 1, 2005, wrote President Charles M. Vest in an e-mail.

By Kelley Riviere

As student in fall term.

CAMPUS LIFE

Laura A. Stuart (left), a Health Educator at MIT Medical, and Samira M. Azarim ’06 (right), the MedLincs Liaison Coordinator for the Olin Center, provide information about AIDS prevention and treatment in Lobby 1.0. This past Wednesday was the 17th annual World AIDS Day.

The Weather

Today: Cloudy, rain. 40°F (4°C)
Tonight: Partly cloudy. 20°F (-7°C)
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy. 40°F (4°C)
Details: Page 2

By Keith J. Weinstein

DoD Bars Inquiry on Fraud at Lincoln Lab

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By Keith J. Weinstein

The Missile Defense Agency has refused to allow MIT to investigate a professor’s longstanding allegations of scientific fraud in a Lincoln Laboratory-led study of the military’s missile defense system, according to statements released this week by MIT and the Agency, which is part of the Department of Defense.

By Beckett W. Sterner

MIT leads new nuclear energy lab

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For the first time in the history of the MIT Federal Credit Union, undergraduates now qualify to be elected to the Board of Directors of the bank. The MITFCU Board of Directors will hold an election for three of its nine members next spring, although applicants must contact the board by Dec. 23.

Anyone who is a member of the credit union for more than two years at the time of the election, is not delinquent in debts, is not an employee of the MITFCU or serving on the board of any other depository organization, and is able to serve the full three year term can be a candidate. Since undergraduates could first become members of the FCU in early winter 2000, this is the first election when they may qualify to run.

All graduate students were able to join the credit union starting in March 2000, and students now form 22 percent of the credit union’s membership, said Vice President of Marketing Kimberly A. Shooter.

The Union was founded in 1940.
**Former NY Police Chief New Head of Homeland Security**

By Richard W. Stevenson and Christopher Drew

Flurries and then Some Clouds

By Roberto Rondanelli

Documents Show CIA Knew of a Coup Plot in Venezuela

By Judy Ponterio

Participants in a deal to export a record 131 tons of coca to western Europe colluded to push prices higher,^{4} and they probably made millions from it.^{5}


**WEATHER**

**Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, December 3, 2004**

- High Pressure
- Low Pressure
- Cold Front
- Warm Front
- Cold Wave
- Snow
- Snowfall
- Freezing Rain
- Strong Wind
- Haze

**Extended Forecast:**

**Today:** Cloudy with periods of rain and possibly snow. High 40°F (4°C)

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Swiss Firm Suspected of Fraud
Paid U.N. Chief’s Son $50,000

By Judith Miller
Reporting from New York

A Swiss company that is being investigated on suspicion of fraud and abuses in the United Nations’ oil-for-food program paid the son of Secretary-General Koït Annan more than $50,000 for consulting at U.N. meetings and other projects in the year it won an oil-for-food contract, investigators said Thursday.

Representatives of the company, Cotecna Inspection Services, based in Geneva, previously said that Koït Annan, the secretary-gen- eral’s son, had no involvement in any U.N. contracts.

But billing records from Koït Annan, 29, and other documents provided by Cotecna to House and Senate committees investigating the U.N. program show that in 1998, he traveled to U.N. meetings in New York and South Africa to develop “contacts” and work on unspecified “specific projects.” In December 1998, Cotecna, which is privately held, won a $4.8 million U.N. contract to monitor goods shipped to Iraq.

The trips were reported Thursday in The New York Post.

The Post, a sister paper to The Capital, said that a Swiss company, Cotecna, which is suspected of paying Koït Annan, was “confident” that the inquiries will “reveal that Cotecna’s actions were at all times ethical, lawful and professional.”

Random Violence Continues In Iraq

By Robert F. Worth

Mortar rounds exploded in five places in central Baghdad on Thursday morning, killing two Iraqis and wounding 14 in disparate attacks that underscored the capital’s vulnerability to insurgent violence as the January elections approach.

The attacks, breaking a period of relative calm in Baghdad, coincided with continuing violence in other parts of the country. In the northern city of Mosul, an American soldier was killed in a gunbattle Thursday morning, killing two Iraqis and wounding 14 in disparate attacks that underscored the capital’s vulnerability to insurgent violence as the January elections approach.

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I’m dismayed by the number of RIAA/MPAA ads in The Tech recently. These ads are little more than propaganda. By printing them, The Tech is engaging in disingenuous behavior that raises legitimate concerns. Perhaps The Tech should instead focus on educating MIT students, faculty and staff about the impending changes wrought by the digital revolution. It is ironic that a newspaper, the official opinion of which is the property of the newspaper, should be the disseminator of an organization that is fighting for our rights. The ads are little more than a PR campaign by the RIAA/MPAA to stifle the protection of intellectual property. The *Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters receive higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become the official opinion of The Tech and will not be returned.
Reading the Whole Bible

Ken Nesmith

Are we a religious nation? Certainly our politics would suggest so. Candidates must be considered religious to be viable. Moral values are the big post-election story (for lit- tle to no good reason, since fewer people voted on them than in 1998 or 1996).

Our focus on the form and not the sub-
stance of religion is curious. John Kerry adopted a common stance by declaring that life begins at conception, but conceivably supporting abortion rights because he doesn’t force his views on the whole na-
tion. The position is untenable: if life begins at conception, then preventing the taking of that life is a matter of preventing murder. Should he not wish to force his views on the rest of the nation, he would also presumably decline to force his view that, say, murder and theft among adults should be illegal. Is such the logic of selective religiosity?

Being religious isn’t better. Bush and his team take great inspiration from the literal word of the Bible. That’s how we, know, for instance, that homosexuality is an abomination - Leviticus says so. But inter-
preting the Bible literally causes lots of prob-
lem. “I have a neighbor who insists on work-
ing on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states that this is more serious than death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?” asks a fur-
wadded(reader). Back in the day, when Bush, looking for clarification on other Bible passages. “Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Leviticus 19:27.” How should they die?“No homo- sexuality, no Sunday, no work, no hair cuts. With what are we left?“My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing gar-
ments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really neces-
sary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them (Lev. 24:10-16)?” Couldn’t we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who burn sharia with their in-laws (Lev. 20:14)?” While this was more entertaining than the usual spam, and while it’s easy to poke fun at the Old Testament, it’s not very constructive, and doesn’t address the reality that so many people in America - smart people, powerful people, regular people - take fundamentalism Christian.

The “Left Behind” series, about the events in the Book of Revelation actually matters, what the subsequent book sells in the nation. The authors, Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, are very rich. But even though the Bible asks them to give away all of their belongings to gain entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven (Luke 12:33, Luke 14:33, Matthew 6:19-21, etc.), they haven’t. In fact, a great many evangelical Christians control massive amounts of wealth. Their heeding of Biblical law is strictly selective. That selectivity is a common feature of global faith. Zealots in Israel justify clear-
ing with Biblical texts would have the faithful killing painlessly, in accordance with their Word, and accepting eternal life in Heaven rather than invoking the full of misery of their word, practitioners of those ways often fail to notice that, say, murder and theft among adults are less prone to tolerate such things; this is a rare encouraging bit of data.

Ruth Miller

The word “gambling” conjures a number of negative images. Gambling has a rich his-
tory, full of ties to organized crime. Animal cruelty (horse and dog races, cock fighting) has united a lot of people against these so-called “sports.” There’s also the more annoying side of gambling, waiting behind a line of people buying lottery tickets at a gas station which is faster, more efficient, but detriment-
al nonetheless. Overall, gambling seems to be pretty de-
hensive. A few people may have the self-control necessary to stop, and a few more may have the focus necessary to wait. But overall, gambling just preys on peoples’ weaknesses. Casinos and lotteries are no better than the tobacco industry. Plus, as Alan Keyes’ Web site will tell you, the vice of gambling is not just a sin, but a sin of idleness and drinking. Few things are as immor-
al, yet as socially accepted, as gam-
bling.

Yes, the government is encouraging you against you because you’re a compulsive gambler. It’s not your fault your welfare check (which the government gave you) is going into a state-run lottery. He created the HOPE Scholarship, which is less immoral, but detrimen-
tal. Nothing is ever your fault. Ever.

The moral character of a nation is in con-
stant flux. If we condemn ourselves to legis-
lating religion in the Constitution and san-
crating religious law, we won’t enjoy the un-
true. Indications are that the younger generations, future stewards of the nation, are less prone to tolerate such things; this is a rare encouraging bit of data.

Shooting Craps for Social Programs

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KRT Crossword

Solution, page 13

ACROSS
1 Doorway element
5 Seeps
10 Tater
14 Met highlight
15 Plants of a region
16 Jason’s ship
17 Ultimate test
19 Bagel center
20 Cost to participate
21 Medicinal plants
22 Love of golf
23 King in “The Tempest”
25 Swiss river
26 Edit again
32 Too
35 Rye grass
36 Genetic info carrier
37 Words of denial
39 Bell and Barker
40 Blotch
42 Punter’s digit
43 Rises
46 __ and crafts
47 Prints incantations
50 Stretches the truth
51 Passageways
55 Dupes
57 Low cards
60 In the style of
61 Woodwind instrument
62 Lawyer’s practice
64 Jet black
65 Bizarre
66 Singer James
67 Tilts and Torme
68 Intended
69 _-in-the-wool
70 Low cards
71 In the style of
72 Love of golf
73 King in “The Tempest”
75 Swiss river
76 Edit again
77 Too
78 Rye grass
79 Genetic info carrier
80 Words of denial
81 Bell and Barker
82 Ovine comment
83 Remove cargo
84 Miscellaneous
85 Distinct region
86 Periods
87 First name of 3D
88 Largest desert
89 Dry food
90 Wrinkled fruit
91 Accomplishes
92 Secure with a cord
93 Arlene and Roald
94 Sgts... e.g.
95 Poker bullet
96 Designates
97 Get a hold on
98 Follow
99 Minute pest
100 Corn units
101 Picnic problem
102 Circle
103 Scouring aid
104 Leers at
105 Religious gathering
106 CIA forerunner
107 Short theatrical offering
108 Tablecloths and sheets
109 Inventory
110 Nonclerics
111 Fill with high spirits
112 Vegetable concoction
113 Nursery rhyme or sonnet
114 Notre Dame cleric
115 False alternative
116 Rudner or Moreno
117 Work for
118 Smothers or Kite
119 Buttons of Hollywood

DOWN
1 Tel Aviv—
2 Disney’s mermaid
3 “Rebel Without a Cause”
4 Co-star
5 Ovine comment
6 Remove cargo
7 Miscellaneous
8 Distinct region
9 Periods
10 First name of 3D
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Think you’re funny? Write comics for The Tech!

join@the-tech.mit.edu
OE Students Unhappy with Lack of Input into Merger

The fragility happened over a long time," was commented on by many visiting committees, ultimately leading to a "serious crisis" two years ago, he said. It is "incumbent on future administrators, not to let that happen" again with a fragile department, Baggeroer said.

Professor of Archaeology Heather L. Lechman said that given current issues such as global warming, "we need the strongest department, Baggeroer said.

"For years, I have been engaged in the process,` and no opportunity for feedback existed until the Tannenbaum committee solicited student input regarding the procedure.

"I doubt that there’s a perfect process for deliberations like this as a merger," Magnanti said.

Tannenbaum chaired the committee, appointed around Sept. 1, which came about through Section 1.4 of MIT Policies and Procedures, which requires that "changes are carried out in consultation with the affected center or program," and one proposal to abolish a department, "expresses concern about the adequacy of planning for affected parties.

"The process was too drawn out," Tannenbaum said.

Tannenbaum added that it was hard to separate complaints related to the process with those related to the merger as the two were intertwined.

"Students and staff were not kept informed throughout," said Tannenbaum, "It is empty gesture being made to smooth everything over," though she "hope[s] it happens."

President Voss said, "I can guarantee that the discourse is starting to be engaged," and he is "pretty confident that it will come about."

"Process longer than expected

"If they’re going to say they’re going to give a brief presentation entitled ‘Merger, Acquisition or Liquidation?’ He described the mood of OE faculty at a recent meeting as ‘depressed’ and ‘submissive.’ He compared MIT’s Ocean Engineering Department with a similar-sized graduate program in another department at Caltech, asking, ‘Why is a separate unit with a graduate program only a source of pride at Caltech and a source of shame at MIT?’ Wierzbicki also wondered why Ocean Engineering would need to be integrated into one of the three existing sections of Mechanical Engineering, rather than being its own division.

Wierzbicki said he worries that the Center for OE planned for Ocean Engineering and Science Technology two months ago that would be a collaborative effort between Courses 1, 2, 12, and 13. She said that in the past two weeks, a group has been formed to write the principles for the Center. Schmidt said the Center would have the “potential for increased national and international visibility” for Ocean Engineering.

"If such an organization were to come to pass, then all of the concerns that I have disappeared."

Dean for Undergraduate Research and Professor in the Department of Ocean Engineering, J. Kim Vandiver reported that it would be a "great improvement if we were able to have a truly integrated center or program," but added in previous efforts the cooperation has not been good between the departments that would be involved.

Braudige, however, expressed doubt in the center, which she had not heard about before the meeting. She said she worries that the Center is an empty gesture being made to "smooth everything over," though she "hope[s] it happens."

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This section came about from the Widnall report issued May 13, 1988, after the abrupt dissolution of the program in Applied Biological Sciences.

Tannenbaum said the procedure followed was to review all documents related to the merger, including the reports of all merger committees, send letters and e-mail to faculty, students, and staff in both departments, publish an announcement in TechMail requesting feedback, and hold meetings with faculty, administrators, and students between Sept. 1 and Nov. 20.

The committee evaluated only those events which took place prior to the CTEMC meeting on Aug. 19, so as to avoid evaluating any of its own actions.

"The process was too drawn out," Tannenbaum said.

Of the correspondence received by Tannenbaum regarding the implementation of the procedures, 18 faculty responded, six positively and 12 negatively, five students responded, all of whom negatively, and four staff members, all negatively.

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Goal of Merger Provisions to Support OE

Merger, from Page 8

Course 13 seen as "fragile"

Magnanti said that the merger was the result of not only low undergraduate enrollment, but also fragility and lack of direction within the department.

At present, he said, there are 16 faculty members within Course 13, two of whom are naval officers, and four of whom hold significant administrative positions, leaving only ten tenure-track faculty in research and teaching.

In addition, he said, the department lacks a critical mass of faculty in certain key areas, leading to concerns about the future of the department.

The last visiting committee, he said, found that the "department is at a crisis point."

The merger would not be "a cost-saving measure" or "for recouping space," Magnanti said.

He said that although as a result of the merger, "we will realize some administrative savings," these savings would then go toward the merged department.

Magnanti also said that the merger does not signal similar action for other small departments. "Clearly MIT has a place for small departments," he said, and currently, no other organizational changes are planned.

Magnanti said that the merger has the potential to "create a more vibrant ocean engineering community" within the competing needs and resources of the MIT community.

He said the merger would lead to a "larger critical mass of faculty in certain key areas and he anticipates an undergraduate track in Mechanical Engineering replacing the Course 13 program would draw more students.

Magnanti said that the "School of Engineering is organized around large departments," and that it is "harder for a small department to function."

Many provisions in merger

Magnanti recommended the merger to President Vest and Provost Brown Aug. 19, providing reasons on Aug. 31, he said.

Among these provisions were new junior track faculty positions in ocean engineering, graduate programs with named degrees in 13A and 13W, the option for students in Course 13 to complete three degrees or transfer to the merged department, an extra seat on the Engineering Council for the merged department for at least two years, retention of the present space occupied by ocean engineering at the time of the merger, a tenure process for faculty in the department based on merit, not size, and a committee to be formed by the provost in five years to report to the faculty on the merger.

The head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, Professor Rohan Abeyaratne, added extra provisions over the next five years, including an additional provisional seat in the department, two seats on the Mechanical Engineering council for ocean engineering faculty, and additional funding from the Magnanti's office for ocean engineering laboratories.

Merger plans began in 2002

The original committee formed to examine the merger, the Ocean Engineering Review Committee, was convened in Sept. 2002 to assess the department and examine the "merits of making Ocean Engineering a sub-unit of another department," said Magnanti.

The committee interviewed approximately 135 students, faculty, and alumni, and expressed concerns about the small undergraduate and faculty size, leading to an inefficient use of faculty and resources. The committee also found that the department lacked a long-term vision and plan, Magnanti said.

The committee made several possible recommendations, the two primary of which were to appoint a committee to explore a merger with another department or to keep Ocean Engineering as a stand-alone department, and integrate the undergraduate program with another department, Magnanti said.

Magnanti chose to explore the first alternative, announcing the second committee in Aug. 2003 to determine "which merger [would] best serve the interests of the institute," he said.

This second committee found "no insurmountable educational or research obstacles" for merging Ocean Engineering with Aeronautics and Astronautics or Mechanical Engineering, said Magnanti.

Mechanical Engineering was chosen with condition to pursue the merger, and both departments voted to pursue the merger with certain set of conditions (though each department's set was different), Magnanti said.

A third committee was then formed "to define a collective set of expectations and structure," Magnanti said.

The committee suggested a number of recommendations, including continued support of the 13A and 13W programs, and a new 2A degree with specialty in ocean engineering. This new SB would include five ocean engineering classes, compared with ten in the current Course 13 degree. The number of graduate programs would also be under consideration for a reduction from eight to four. The merger would also commit to faculty renewal in ocean engineering, maintaining the current size for ten years, Magnanti said.

Community Crafts Fill Lobby 10 to Welcome Holidays

The Tech Community Crafters annual Holiday Craft Sale, sponsored by the Women's League, was held last Thursday in Lobby 10. The sale featured a plethora of handcrafted festive goods. Clockwise from top left:

Kayla D. Jacobs '06 and Holli M. Rachall '08 stop at the Storyteller Jewelry table.

Melike Yersiz '07 looks through a collection of New England storyteller Raelinda Wood's unique pins shaped like miniature books. The covers of the pins are decorated with enchanting reliefs and stones frosted with glass and hold a complete, original story inside.

Passersby check out a stand of poinsettias.

The Production Department's Word of the Day

Epiphany: A usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something (rhymes with Tiffany)

join@it.mit.edu

December 3, 2004
Words Beyond the Macked:
Sizing Up

By Akshay Patil
campus@the-tech.mit.edu

Just because I write a lot, people like assum-
ing things about me. Now, granted, a lot of it is true. I mean, when someone spends three years writing a column that pretty much focuses around their life and what they think is funny, you’re not really going out on a narrow branch by thinking they’re self-centered egotistical bastards who do large quantities of drugs and molest penguins with distressing frequency. But some people do that. Well, I’m here to say that I don’t do that, because I feel that you can be honest with people about yourself without necessarily justifying whatever-else.

“Ooh Akshay!” friends and strangers cry out: “you must have such a large vocabu-
larly!” I would tell you that the sad truth of the matter is, no. You don’t. Yes, I know, with the large number of words hemorrhaging out of my mouth on a weekly basis, it can be hard to think I know very little. But the fact is, people do not like to be dragged into the MIT disease causing exponential vocabulary decay, but such is the case. The real problem is that when you read a grand total of one book (and I mean book, not your fancy shammy course notes or O’Reilly texts) a year, you aren’t replacing words at anywhere near the rate they’re falling out of your ears.

“But you write so... often” they cry, careful to not say anything positive in a conscientious effort to avoid encouraging me further, “certainly practice makes for not-forgettingness?” What everyone forgets is that with writing, and everything else in life, it’s not the size of your vocabulary, it’s how you use it.

That’s right, I admit, I’ve got a small vocab-
ulary. It’s a bit of a complex for me and I often feel inadequate around people with larger vocabularies, but trust me, there are some things I’ve learnt out there and if you’re going to use all of them at once, you’d have just bought a football and turned it out to see if somebody bites. Makes me sick.

But what’s important to realize is just because you have a small vocabulary, doesn’t mean you can’t have a lot of meaning. A number of companies will sell you kits which can help you enlarge your vocabulary. These are quite painless and available via mail-order. I’ve never used one, but friends have and from what I hear, they can be quite effective. After a few months of regular use, one friend experienced a doubling in size and felt things more confident than ever using his vocabulary.

I personally don’t like to use artificial meth-
ods and prefer a more natural approach. I do,
though, find my vocabulary growing every time I master the vocabulary of my (vocabulary) domain so that when I talk to any group of people, it’s not just the size of my vocabulary, it’s how much I’ve mastered it.

The other problem with my vocabulary is that I am not very good. I speak a good German and Spanish, but I am far from fluent. However, I have found that having a strong command of a foreign language is very beneficial to your writing. It forces you to think about words in a different way, which can be very helpful.

The pro’s of this situation fall under a cate-
gory known as “duh!” You get laid, he gets laid, and you can still shower. The other two moral dilemmas here: First, how do you feel about your sexual experi-
ence being in the public domain? Second, if you are going to have sex with this person, what else do you want to happen? I have discussed this topic before and I believe that it’s important to think about the consequences of your actions. People talk and you can’t close your ears.

Well, we can’t all be blessed with big vocab-
ularies, but just because someone is known for being a bit thin, that doesn’t mean it’s a bad thing.

The key is using yours to the best that you are able to use your limitations that you have to use sparingly. Do the most of it while you’re young, because when you get older your normal will have even more trouble bringing things up.
I've got a terrible addiction. I used to have control over it — I'd take a hit once a week and be done with it. Then it became two per week. Someone eventually told me that "it seems like it's all you ever talk about." Then I started doing it with other people. At first they recoiled, the very thought disgusted them. Gradually, they too became obsessed.

I couldn't figure out how it could be so addicting. I mean, the average MIT student seems pretty happy even without any artificial stimulation (with the exclusion of caffeine, which keeps the vast majority of us conscious). What I discovered, however, is that no student can indefinitely resist the powerfully attractive force pulling him away from his studies and towards relaxation.

For example, this Thanksgiving, while many were spending time with family, or more likely their psets, I spent a grand total of about 7 hours getting my fix. It was rather reminiscent of my early days of pubescence: every time my parents walked into my room, I'd quickly hide what I was doing, turn around, and pretend that everything was completely normal.

That's right. "Desperate Housewives" has taken over my life. Even before you read this sentence, the previous sentence has probably led you to think, "Good lord, a run of the mill soap opera posing as a prime time comedy / drama is so much worse than pathogenic drug use." But "Housewives" isn't what you'd expect, especially from the network that brought you… umm… "Late Night with Jimmy Kimmel." Okay, well, I can't think of any good primetime show ABC puts out, so I sure as hell hope you can't either.

More importantly, however, is that "Housewives" isn't about women who are desperately lusting over the gardener or the plumber. I mean, it does have those things, but that's not what it's about. It's about women who feel stuck in their lives. The show opens with the suicide of Mary Alice Young, who serves as the one woman chorus for the rest of the show. Her neighborhood friends naturally assume that the reason for her suicide stemmed from the pressure of the mundane growing too great. While our omniscient narrator tells the audience that this is not so, as her friends battle their everyday problems, the death of Mary Alice is a constant reminder not to become overwhelmed by these stresses (perhaps there is a message here for MIT students).

But what is truly amazing about the show is the wit. It isn't always overt, but its definitely there and very memorable. For example, when Bree Van De Kamp's husband announces his dissatisfaction with his wife, they seek marriage counseling. In one scene, the characters find themselves discussing sex. Off to the side, one can catch a glimpse of Bree subtly playing with a distinctly phallic object. It's even better when she has a "When Harry Met Sally" scene in a restaurant with her therapist. He promptly proceeds to ask for the check without even having ordered. Then there is the dinner party where Lynette Scavo discloses that she and her husband had sex on "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride" at Disney World. Gabrielle Solis (the one having an affair with the gardener) kicked her Latin lover out the window; literally. He reemerges, a Romeo to her Juliet, at the same window, to trim her hedges while talking to her husband.

I can't really explain why shows like "Housewives" or "The O.C." are so great (if I could, I would be a famous and wealthy Hollywood producer, not a lowly MIT student). But while avoiding my work over Thanksgiving, I learned something from watching TV; a piece of wisdom I will not impart to you. MIT colleagues, when the pressures of the Institute seem to grow too great, worry not. Remember the words of Walter from The Big Lebowski, "Fuck it Dude. Let's go bowling."
Wanna Be a GRT?

First Graduate Resident Tutor (GRT) Info. Session
December 6 @ 5pm in the Rainbow Lounge (50-306)

GRTs are full time enrolled MIT graduate students who live in MIT undergraduate residence halls to foster a safe and supportive living environment.

Eligibility
- Full time graduate students, single or with families, registered at MIT, or in a combined program with MIT and another institution, may apply.
- Students must be registered in a multi-year program and be at a point in their studies where they will likely be staying at MIT for several more years.
- An international student on any type of visa who already has a Research Assistantship or a Teaching Assistantship at MIT requiring over ten hours of work per week should not apply because acceptance of a position would result in over twenty hours of employment, in violation of U.S. law.

Compensation
- This position is considered employment, minimum ten hours per week and includes a meal stipend and free housing.

For More Information
- web.mit.edu/residence/grt_new.html
- contact Joy Galarneau (joyeg@mit.edu, 617.452.4280)

Applications due January 28, 2005.
to provide financial services for MIT employees, and held total assets of $156 million as of Dec. 31, 2003, according to its 2003 financial statement.

Board takes active governance role

The MITFCU directors comprise a “very active board that meets a lot,” said Board Treasurer John L. Matarese.

“Clearly, we need to look into the matter,” said Board Treasurer John L. Matarese.

The responsibilities of the board include approving the budget, meeting once a month, going over reports, and generally “whatever the president of the credit union brings forward,” Matarese said.

Recently, the credit union has held elections by mailing ballots to each member with biographies and pictures of each candidate and what they hope to achieve. The ballots are sent to an independent firm, which reports the results at the annual board meeting in April.

Matarese said that only three people ran for the three open positions last year, although there were five candidates the previous year.

For application materials, e-mail john@matarese.com.

Joe Larrivee, from Facilities, helps vacuum leaves behind Building 6 last Thursday. After two extremely windy days, most of the leaves have fallen from the trees.

We are also seeking applicants for member liberties at the following levels:

For more information, please visit our website at http://mitfcu.org.
To be eligible for this one-time 500-mile enrollment bonus and the 2,500-mile flight bonus, you must enroll in the AAdvantage travel awards program from American Airlines, American Eagle, AmericanConnection, AAdvantage and AA.com before 12/31/04 and travel between 10/01/2004 and 12/31/2004, on purchased, published fares on flights marketed and operated by American Airlines. Join now and you’ll earn some major bonus miles – miles you can cash in for flights to destinations all over the globe. To join and register for your 500-mile enrollment bonus, just go to www.aa.com/collegebm before 12/31/2004. It’s that easy – and it’s free. Plus, while you are on AA.com, you can learn about all the ways to earn AAdvantage miles.

Fly and earn another 2,500 bonus miles.

You’ll earn 2,500 AAdvantage bonus miles for your first round trip from 10/1/04 to 12/31/04. That’s on top of the miles you earn for your flight. And you’ll earn 1,000 bonus miles when you book your trip at AA.com, so you’ll be on your way to where you’d rather be, sooner than later.

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MIT Will Direct New Nuclear Energy Lab

By Meghana Limaye

MIT is leading a group of universities and companies in a new nuclear energy laboratory whose goal will be to develop a next-generation nuclear power plant.

The Idaho National Laboratory, a combination of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory West, will give MIT’s Department of Nuclear Engineering more funding from the US Department of Energy, said David Moncton, director of the MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory. Currently, the MIT reactor is involved in testing new fuels and materials for a next-generation power plant. Many graduate students are already involved in this research, and this number will increase with the new funding for the Nuclear Engineering Department. There will also be opportunities for students to go to Idaho to perform experiments not possible here, said Moncton.

Students would be working with the Advanced Test Reactor in Idaho, a more powerful reactor than the one at MIT. The mission of the Idaho National Laboratory is to develop a prototype reactor to carry the future of nuclear power and hydrogen production, Moncton said.

Hydrogen production, which is needed to move to a fuel-cell economy, is a good complement for nuclear power because of the high temperatures and electricity needed. The MIT Nuclear Reactor will play a significant role in the research of the laboratory. Smaller-scale experiments needed to develop the next generation power plant will take place in the MIT reactor rather than in the larger one in Idaho, said Edward S. Lau, Superintendent of Reactor Operations. MIT is the only university in the consortium to have a working test reactor.

The other universities in the consortium include the University of New Mexico, North Carolina State, Ohio State University, Oregon State University, and a regional collaboration of the major Idaho universities (the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, and Boise State University). Each of these schools has a strong nuclear engineering department and acts as a center in their own region.

The idea is to establish a network of universities interested in participating in the next generation nuclear power plant, but the network will not be exclusively these five, said Moncton. The five schools will lead other interested universities, and all will be led by MIT, he said.

Faculty in the MIT Nuclear Engineering Department were already working towards a new type of nuclear reactor and looking to the future of nuclear energy, but the creation of the Idaho National Laboratory will give new focus to the research currently being conducted. The new lab will help move the research at MIT from technology development to mission-driven technology, which will add excitement to the work being done here, Moncton said.

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Pentagon Refuses MIT's Request for Access to Data

Missile, from Page 1

Theodore Postol — began sending a stream of letters to MIT officials, calling the POET report "a serious case of scientific fraud" and demanding that MIT repudiate the report. In November 2002, a preliminary inquiry into Postol's allegations by Professor Edward F. Crawley ’76, then the head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, found that Postol's allegations had enough merit to warrant a full investigation. Under MIT's rules, an investigation should have begun "promptly" but "thereafter the investigation had to be done," because MIT now says the Missile Defense Agency — the successor of the agency that commissioned the POET report in the first place — refused to allow an MIT investigation to proceed. MIT has identified a panel of distinguished outside investigators, each of whom have appropriate security clearances, to conduct the investigation. However, we have not yet been successful in obtaining approval from the Missile Defense Agency to give them access to this classified information. Without that access, the investigation cannot be conducted. We continue to seek the approval needed so that the investigation can proceed.

Missile Defense Agency Statement

The proposed administrative investigation concerns allegations about the results of a 1997 missile defense flight test that were rejected in separate reviews conducted by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), the Defense Department's investigative arm, and the Department of Justice. These reviews concluded that there was no evidence of fraud, and that the allegations were unfounded. The multiple reviews by independent experts, including a team of distinguished researchers at Lincoln Laboratory, have found no evidence of serious misconduct.

January

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization is renamed the Missile Defense Agency.

February

Protest Robert A. Brown writes to Postol of MIT that will not review the fact accuracy of the POET report, because it is "government, not MIT document." But MIT will initiate a misconduct investigation against the report's two authors, Tsui and Meina. Brown writes.

February

The General Accounting Office, the non-partisan investigative arm of Congress, releases a report that questions the reliability of the POET system.

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Summer 2005 Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) MIT Haystack Observatory

Undergraduate science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science students are invited to apply for summer research positions at the MIT Haystack Observatory in Westford, MA. Research projects include radio astronomical studies, atmospheric physics investigations, and hardware and software development for data acquisition, processing, and recording systems. The program extends from June 6 to August 12, 2005 and carries a weekly stipend of $400.00. Women, minorities and students with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For further information and application materials, see http://www.haystack.edu/reu/.

Application deadline is 1 February 2005

Happy Friday!