Irish Media Lab to Shut Down

By Hawatha Bray

The Irish outpost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Media Lab is shutting down, as MIT officials and the Irish government failed to reach agreement on a plan to fund the operation.

The closure of Media Lab Europe is the second time MIT has failed to gain a foothold for the Media Lab outside the United States. An Asian Media Lab was founded in Bangalore, India in 2003, with aid from the Indian government. But MIT cut its ties to the lab in 2005, handing over its assets to a newly created Indian Media Lab.

The problem this time was money. At its founding in 2003, the European lab received a $45 million grant from the Irish government. Media Lab officials hoped to develop the facility into a self-sustaining research center, financed by grants from corporations. But the grants were slow in coming, due to the impact of the high-tech recession earlier in the decade.

Officials estimated that the Irish lab, located in a former brewery warehouse in Dublin, would need $13 million to sustain itself for another year. But corporate money didn’t arrive, and neither MIT nor the Irish government were willing to make up the shortfall. As a result, the lab will begin winding down its operations, with final shutdown coming at the end of the month. Roughly 50 employees will lose their jobs.

Simon R. Jones, the lab’s managing director, blamed the lingering effects of the technology business slump earlier in the decade. “In the end, it was too deep and too long a recession,” Jones said.

MIT Chancellor Phillip L. Clay issued a statement, saying Media Lab Europe “was caught in the economic downturn affecting the digital and telecommunications industries” shortly after the project’s launch. The Media Lab’s board of directors, which include The Edge, guitarist for the rock band U2, said that the Dublin center had generated valuable research during its short life. “It is important to acknowledge the innovative work of the lab since it was established,” the board said.

“This much of work has been coming to fruition in recent months, with 14 patent applications filed and a number of commercialization opportunities being explored.”

Adrian J. Stywatzky, managing director at Mercent Management Consulting in Boston, said that the failure of the Irish Media Lab illustrates how corporations are pulling back from financial support of research projects that don’t offer a quick profit.

“It is definitely a common problem in the corporate world, where people have been asking harder and harder questions about when will this pay off,” Stywatzky said. “Governments have not filled that gap.”

UA, GSC Plan Redefinition of ASA

By Jeffrey Chang

The Association of Student Activities is being restructured with the goal of clarifying their role at MIT while giving the group more flexibility and increasing its efficiency.

In a meeting held in December, Graduate Student Council President Bunin Singh G and Undergraduate Association President Harel M. Williams ’05 said they plan to fix the lack of definition of the ASA, which is a joint committee of the GSC and UA.

“What we’re changing now isn’t procedural things, but the definition of ASA and roles and responsibilities of ASA Exec. All those definitions in place were missing prior to just be speech,” he said.

Smith said that she disputes the accounts given by police officers.

“Time and Space Robotics Lab.

With the help of his wife, Elizabeth, Matthew J. Spenko G attempts to deduce a problem with his autonomous vehicle. Spenko researches high speed hazard avoidance for the Field and Space Robotics Lab.
The following articles have been selected for their relevance to the current topics:

**Anger Simmers at Harvard Following Summers Remark**

By Marcella Bombardieri

A suggestion by Harvard University’s president, Lawrence H. Summers, that men make better same-sex marital abilities in math and science as men has touched off an angry response from many Harvard students, including those of the same sex, who have issues with the same same-sex marital abilities in math and science. And according to some of the students who have been upset by this remark, it is true that men have lower abilities in math and science than women and that this is a problem.

**Mayors Ask Bush Not to Cut Grants**

By James Dao

With many cities still facing tight budgets and declining revenues, mayors from across the nation urged the Bush administration on Tuesday not to cut community-development block grants, one of the federal government’s last direct aid programs for cities. The Bush administration is preparing a budget request to Congress that is expected to freeze or reduce spending on an array of domestic programs as part of efforts to trim the federal deficit, which reached a record $415 billion in the last fiscal year.

**Businessman Pleads Guilty To Trying to Help Hussein**

By Neil A. Lewis

An Iraqi-American businessman who profited from the U.N. oil-for-food program to lobby American and U.N. officials about Iraqi-American affairs, pleaded guilty to secretly working on behalf of the Iraqi government to lobby American and U.N. officials about Iraqi-American affairs, pleaded guilty to secretly working on behalf of the Iraqi government to lobby American and U.N. officials about Iraqi-American affairs.

**Inaugural Preparations Change Washington, Disturb Daily Life**

By David Johnston and Michael Janisly

As the capital prepared to celebrate President Bush's inauguration, the city on Tuesday prepared more like a place under siege. Hour by hour the city of grand buildings and marble statues seemed to disappear behind curtains of steel security fences and concrete barriers.

Vincent, a naturalized citizen who has long been involved in Iraqi-American affairs, pleaded guilty to secretly working on behalf of the Iraqi government to lobby American and U.N. officials about the sanctions program. In exchange, he received millions of dollars after he signed off on lists of millions of barrels of Iraqi oil, according to the charges.

**World & Nation**

*The New York Times*

**Weather**

*The New York Times*

**Arctic Blast**

By J.R. Moskowitz

The storm was the coldest day in Cambridge since last January, as biting northeasterly winds ushered in arctic air. The high temperature struggled to reach 13°F (-12°C) after bottoming out Tuesday morning at 5°F (-15°C). After a relatively tranquil day on Thursday, another arctic blast arrives for Friday, likely even colder than the one yesterday. The low temperature Friday night may dip below 0°F (-18°C).

It is little consolation, but our weather would be considered downright balmy compared to that in places to the north. On Monday morning the temperature there dropped to -54°F (-48°C), only 6°F shy of the lowest temperature ever record in that state. Now that is truly arctic weather!

**Extended Forecast:**

Extended Forecast:

- **Wednesday**: Frigid and windy. High: 10 (–12°C). Low: 21 (–7°C).
- **Thursday**: Sunny, but remaining cold. High: 20 (–7°C). Low: 16 (–9°C).
- **Friday**: Sunny, but remaining windy. High: 26 (–3°C). Low: 17 (–9°C).

**Rice Refuses to Set Schedule For Withdrawing from Iraq**

By Steven R. Weisman and Jim Brittain

Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's nominee for secretary of state, refused Tuesday to set any timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops after the Iraqi elections at the end of this month, but declared that the United States was making "some progress" in training Iraqi security forces.

Under persistent bipartisan ques- tioning at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rice also declared that beyond strengthening Iraq's fledg- ing police and military, the most urgent task facing Iraqis after the elections is to overcome differ- ences among Sunnis, Arabs, Shiites, Kurds and others by seeking politi- cal reconciliation among them- selves.

The Iraqis lack some capaci- ties, and if we focus in this next period after the election on helping them to build those capacities beyond where they are now, I think we will have done a major part toward the day when less coalition help is needed," she said.

By far the most severe question- ing came from Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., whose birthing tone clear- ly rankled Rice and brought an uncharacteristic flash of irritation. In the morning session, Boxer focused sharply on Rice's past statements about nuclear weapons in Iraq, showing them on a cardboard dis- play.

"I personally believe, this is my personal view, that your loyalty to the people you were given to sell this war, overwhelmed your respect for the truth," Boxer said acidly.

"Senator, I have to say that I never, ever lost respect for the truth in the service of anything," Rice responded, her voice sharpening. "It is not my nature. It is not my char- acter. And I would hope that we can have this conversation and discuss what happened before, and what went on before and what I said, without impugning my credibility or my integrity."

Democrats also focused on Rice's past advocacy of the Iraq war and her role in deciding how many troops would be needed, while several Republican Senators called on Rice and the Bush administration in general to be more forthcoming about its strategy and on specifics to back up its claims of progress.

"I can't give you a timeline," Rice said, in discussing how the administration planned to measure success in Iraq that would allow an American disengagement. "But I think we will know when the Iraqis are able to have in place institutions, no matter how fragile and no matter how young, where they're actually beginning to try and solve their own problems within those institutions."

Rice opened the hearing by pledging to reinvestigate diplomacy on a number of fronts, from the Middle East to North Korea and Europe. But while going out of her way to commend and compliment various senators for their questions and their support, Rice refused to second-guess the decisions of the past or predict the future.

"This was never going to be easy," Rice said at one point, responding to a challenge about Iraq from Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who was making his most prominent appearance in Washington since his defeat in the presidential election.

"It was always going to have ups and downs," Rice added. "I'm sure that we have multiple, many deci- sions, some of which were good, some of which might not have been good."

**Rice Refuses to Set Schedule For Withdrawing from Iraq**

By Steven R. Weisman and Jim Brittain

Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's nominee for secretary of state, refused Tuesday to set any timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops after the Iraqi elections at the end of this month, but declared that the United States was making "some progress" in training Iraqi security forces.

Under persistent bipartisan ques- tioning at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rice also declared that beyond strengthening Iraq's fledg- ing police and military, the most urgent task facing Iraqis after the elections is to overcome differ- ences among Sunnis, Arabs, Shiites, Kurds and others by seeking politi- cal reconciliation among them- selves.

The Iraqis lack some capaci- ties, and if we focus in this next period after the election on helping them to build those capacities beyond where they are now, I think we will have done a major part toward the day when less coalition help is needed," she said.

By far the most severe question- ing came from Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., whose birthing tone clear- ly rankled Rice and brought an uncharacteristic flash of irritation. In the morning session, Boxer focused sharply on Rice's past statements about nuclear weapons in Iraq, showing them on a cardboard dis- play.

"I personally believe, this is my personal view, that your loyalty to the people you were given to sell this war, overwhelmed your respect for the truth," Boxer said acidly.

"Senator, I have to say that I never, ever lost respect for the truth in the service of anything," Rice responded, her voice sharpening. "It is not my nature. It is not my char- acter. And I would hope that we can have this conversation and discuss what happened before, and what went on before and what I said, without impugning my credibility or my integrity."

Democrats also focused on Rice's past advocacy of the Iraq war and her role in deciding how many troops would be needed, while several Republican Senators called on Rice and the Bush administration in general to be more forthcoming about its strategy and on specifics to back up its claims of progress.

"I can't give you a timeline," Rice said, in discussing how the administration planned to measure success in Iraq that would allow an American disengagement. "But I think we will know when the Iraqis are able to have in place institutions, no matter how fragile and no matter how young, where they're actually beginning to try and solve their own problems within those institutions."

Rice opened the hearing by pledging to reinvestigate diplomacy on a number of fronts, from the Middle East to North Korea and Europe. But while going out of her way to commend and compliment various senators for their questions and their support, Rice refused to second-guess the decisions of the past or predict the future.

"This was never going to be easy," Rice said at one point, responding to a challenge about Iraq from Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who was making his most prominent appearance in Washington since his defeat in the presidential election.

"It was always going to have ups and downs," Rice added. "I'm sure that we have multiple, many deci- sions, some of which were good, some of which might not have been good."

**andanp;rdent Ric Chadcelor of the United Nations, Mary Robinson, said that the United Nations was "deeply concerned" about the situation in Iran and that the organization was "doing everything possible to resolve the crisis." Robinson spoke at a press conference following her meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, who said that Iran would continue to support Palestinian refugees and that any talks on Palestinian rights would be "constructive." The United Nations has faced criticism for its handling of the Palestinian issue and the situation in the region.

**Weather**

*The New York Times*

**Arctic Blast**

By J.R. Moskowitz

The storm was the coldest day in Cambridge since last January, as biting northeasterly winds ushered in arctic air. The high temperature struggled to reach 13°F (-12°C) after bottoming out Tuesday morning at 5°F (-15°C). Today was to be somewhat warmer during the day, as the wind slowed to the southwest in advance of a low pressure system approaching the region. This storm will cause some light snow in the evening hours and overnight. After a relatively tranquil day on Thursday, another arctic blast arrives for Friday, likely even colder than the one yesterday. The low temperature Friday night may dip below 0°F (-18°C).

It is little consolation, but our weather would be considered downright balmy compared to that in places to the north. On Monday morning the temperature there dropped to -54°F (-48°C), only 6°F shy of the lowest temperature ever record in that state. Now that is truly arctic weather!
By Steven Ressler

Israel banks holding assets from European Jews killed in the Holocaust failed to make a determined effort to return the holdings to their proper value, according to a report of the Israeli parliament released Tuesday.

The Israeli government, as custodian for a large part of the assets, also failed to make a serious effort to maintain their value or to return them to survivors or heirs, the report said.

What we have discovered, in particular the attitude of the banks, is not only very disappointing, but it is a disgrace to the image of a parliamentary committee, Colette Avital, a Labor Party legislator. Under pressure from the United States and Israel, the banks and governments of Switzerland and Austria have worked to disclose the assets traced to World War II or earlier were found in Swiss banks. Both cases were found in Canada.

The decision has ignited anger and concern among cattlemen across the West, who fear it will stymie the chances of the U.S. being admitted to the World Trade Organization. The WTO has 164 members, including 30 in the West, and the organization is under pressure to settle the case within 90 days.

The Mehr news agency, which reportedly has close ties to the Iranian government, reported Tuesday that Iran plans to build a new high-security biolab in the city of Najaf.

In addition to the biolab in Najaf, there are four others in Iran, all of which are considered potential sites for a weapons program. The report said Iran has already built at least one new high-security biolab in a location not disclosed by the U.N. inspector general, but he said the report lacks specific terms and may be due to leaks at the site. Today, the Islamic Republic has acquired massive military might, and it is not clear whether it will be able to maintain its military advantage in the face of international sanctions.

Bu has made it clear that it will not have a constitution, and we won’t have a civil war, the minister said. There will be chaos, and we will not conduct elections successfully, he added.

The report’s authors suggested that the department examine the management and training of 911 operators, as well as begin tracking complaints about response time. The report suggested that 911 calls be evaluated whether they were handled correctly.

The department’s Office of Research and Evaluation also calls for the city to start more programs to remove illegal weapons and providers, as well as begin tracking complaints about response time. The report suggested that 911 calls be evaluated whether they were handled correctly.

The report’s authors suggested that the department examine the management and training of 911 operators, as well as begin tracking complaints about response time. The report suggested that 911 calls be evaluated whether they were handled correctly.
Homecoming Advantage

I arrived early on Tuesday night’s Worcester Polytechnic Institute/Massachusetts Institute of Technology basketball game at the Rockwell Cage putting the Engineers against the. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Serenaded by Fifty Cent’s “Shake that ass girl,” the two teams executed their warm up drills wearing the same exact colors, and then played a hard-fought game with Poly pulling away from Tech at the end for a four point victory. I recommend these games to all members of the MIT community. I was pleased to see at least three MIT professors in the crowd gesticulating wildly at times, but MIT did not seem to have the home court advantage we were all trying to go for there are cheerleaders (although they refuse to come onto the court during timeouts so we can see them), coach Larry Anderson is a cool guy, the price is right (free), and our point guard, Danny Kuanatorn, is not only a good ballplayer, but he has a role in the upcoming flick, Coach Carter. Come on MIT, take a break from your labs and libraries and witness a great American spectacle, unspoiled. Emerson is in town on the 20th.

Bob DeLaene
MIT Center for Real Estate ’05
Nationalism in Vietnam and Iraq

Nicholas Baldasaro

To many of the modern intellectual or liberal persuasion, religion is a dirty word. The charges frequently brought against religions, and against religious adherence in general, is that religion has no basis except in revealed texts, that its adherents are enslaved through faith rather than reason, and most significantly, that there is no link between moral and action, and that religion is frequently a force for bigotry, exploitation, and all the things under the sun considered unfortunate. In general, these observations are fundamentally misleading and extreme, and a side-by-side comparison of religion with more secular institutions will reveal the truth of the matter.

Too many detractors of religion take the easy way out by debating to point by a holy book, like the Bible, which is filled with fabulous and counterintuitive stories, open to all interpretations, and often self-contradictory. The Bible is not the only sacred book on earth; there are volumes of them, all of them conflicting, and all of them with their own self-contradictory sayings. The problem with this technique of dismissing religion though, is that every single one of the convictions that we hold, and that we live by, and that we believe in, is a subjective and unproven phenomenon. Many physicists accept the most fundamental postulate of physics, that energy can only change form, and cannot be created or destroyed. This acceptance is based solely on one's personal experience and the way one so otherwise believes — interestingly, all of science is logically derived from an article of faith supported by factual human perception.

One might be inclined to challenge a conclusion so sweeping, on the grounds that while the basis of science may be an assumption, the basis of religious belief is no more so. The Bible, like any other religious text, is full of contradictions; it is full of inconsistencies; it is full of errors; it is full of contradictions. This challenge is severe and bewildering, because however it is that the Bible is put together, the reader must believe in it. The reader must believe in it because it is the only way to follow the commandments of God. Why would one care to believe in a book that has no historical basis? Why would one believe in a book that is full of contradictions? Why would one believe in a book that is full of errors?

The great, great majority of the beliefs about the world are based on the hearsay of those around us, be they our friends, family, or college professors. Students in primary and secondary schools are taught to sneer at the ignorance of the religious. People form the majority of their opinions, and even employ the 50,000-strong press to assure stability, thereby fueling the battle between nationalism and force which is characteristic of all of these contexts. This misunderstanding of how to find reasonable solutions to Iraq's bedlam remains to be seen. What is clear, though, is that democracy is a process which must be nurtured from within, not a system which can be forcibly imposed from the outside. It is a system of government that is the very basic assumption of that field. If justice were merely arbitrary and therefore carry no real basis for behavior must eventually exploit an assumption, turning it into a one-person government. Schoolchildren, partly because they are too young, and even employed a 50,000-strong press to assure stability, thereby fueling the battle between nationalism and force which is characteristic of all of these contexts. This misunderstanding of how to find reasonable solutions to Iraq's bedlam remains to be seen. What is clear, though, is that democracy is a process which must be nurtured from within, not a system which can be forcibly imposed from the outside. It is a system of government that is the very basic assumption of that field. If justice were merely arbitrary and therefore carry no real
Chester...long time no see. So...how's the wife and kids?
Let's cut the crap. I came here for one reason: you. Now, let's go.

A spectacular destiny awaits! You and I are going back to our glory days. You and I are going to resurrect the fourth greatest comic strip in the entire world..."The Rick and Chester Show!"

I mean, sure...this "TRIO" stuff is adequate, I guess. But, it pales in comparison to the work of comic strip genius that you and I starred in two years ago. So, why don't you be smart and ditch this sinking ship, alright?

Y'know, if I weren't so angry right now, I'd actually be rather impressed.

More Public Sex from the True Stories File

Dec 11, Endicott House, Course: 3 Charity
Um, ma'am, do you realize that the 3rd floor rooms all got locked?

But why? We have over 200 people and only 2 bathrooms.

We caught people using the beds in the rooms; sir.

I will find you and out you.

Grades Don't Matter, Sources Say

Palo Alto, CA (AP) – Documents obtained by the Associated Press indicate that grades achieved in postgraduate classes have no effect on future prospects for students enrolled in academic institutions. According to interviews with several current and past graduate students, grades don't count," said former grad student and now billionaire Jerry Yang, co-founder of Yahoo! Inc. "It got mostly B's in grad school, which at Stanford was really really bad."

A poll conducted by the Los Angeles Times showed that over 85% of five year grad believe getting high marks "is worth the effort" and "is valuable way to spend my time". Fewer than 10% of fifth year students felt the same way.

In reality, neither employers nor your parents appear to care if you get an A or a B in your advanced Nonlinear Optimization class. "I'm just glad I don't have to pay for tuition anymore," said a mother who wished to remain anonymous.

 Reaction among graduate TA's was mixed, with some expressing shock that their late hours grading amount to nothing, while others showed visible relief that losing a student's final exam will not really ruin their life.

Sources close to academic faculty reveal that this fact is well known among professors. "Of course grades don't matter," said Prof. Smith, "we only care about the lab work." Grades only serve to "feed the ego of the smart students, and break the spirit of the mediocre ones."

Now you tell me? A grad student expresses frustration over the revelation

Continued on page A23 copyright 2004 Jorge Cham www.phdcomics.com

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL DAY...

...STUCK IN THE LAB.

www.phdcomics.com
A stem cell research scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said on Jan. 13 that he is being denied the opportunity to get tenure because of racism.

Dr. James L. Sherley, one of 28 black professors at MIT, said the decision not to put him forward for tenure is only the latest example of racism he has experienced at MIT. He said he has been denied sufficient lab space, paid less than his peers, and repeatedly slighted by colleagues.

Sherley, a proponent of controversial theories about stem cells, also said that he has not been given the freedom to challenge scientific orthodoxy that white faculty members are given. “This is a case of an uppity Negro, and there is a group of faculty who would like to see me move on,” said Sherley, the only black out of 28 minority tenure candidates to get tenure.

“A critic of the clone-banning policy of MIT, Sherley has consistently called for the sharing of human embryonic stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field’s elite journals. But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley’s publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.

If Sherley is not granted tenure this year, he will have to leave MIT. He was hired in July 1998 as an assistant professor, and later promoted to associate professor without tenure. According to standard practice, Lauffenburger solicited letters from senior colleagues in the field to comment on the importance of Sherley’s work. Then the senior faculty of the department met in December to discuss the letters, or “side letters,” that he requested for comment. Sherley’s work focuses on the use of adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field’s elite journals.

But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley’s publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.

“If Sherley is not granted tenure this year, he will have to leave MIT. He was hired in July 1998 as an assistant professor, and later promoted to associate professor without tenure. According to standard practice, Lauffenburger solicited letters from senior colleagues in the field to comment on the importance of Sherley’s work. Then the senior faculty of the department met in December to discuss the letters, or “side letters,” that he requested for comment. Sherley’s work focuses on the use of adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field’s elite journals.

But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley’s publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.

If Sherley is not granted tenure this year, he will have to leave MIT. He was hired in July 1998 as an assistant professor, and later promoted to associate professor without tenure. According to standard practice, Lauffenburger solicited letters from senior colleagues in the field to comment on the importance of Sherley’s work. Then the senior faculty of the department met in December to discuss the letters, or “side letters,” that he requested for comment. Sherley’s work focuses on the use of adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field’s elite journals.

But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley’s publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.

If Sherley is not granted tenure this year, he will have to leave MIT. He was hired in July 1998 as an assistant professor, and later promoted to associate professor without tenure. According to standard practice, Lauffenburger solicited letters from senior colleagues in the field to comment on the importance of Sherley’s work. Then the senior faculty of the department met in December to discuss the letters, or “side letters,” that he requested for comment. Sherley’s work focuses on the use of adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field’s elite journals.

But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley’s publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.

If Sherley is not granted tenure this year, he will have to leave MIT. He was hired in July 1998 as an assistant professor, and later promoted to associate professor without tenure. According to standard practice, Lauffenburger solicited letters from senior colleagues in the field to comment on the importance of Sherley’s work. Then the senior faculty of the department met in December to discuss the letters, or “side letters,” that he requested for comment. Sherley’s work focuses on the use of adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field’s elite journals.

But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley’s publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.

If Sherley is not granted tenure this year, he will have to leave MIT. He was hired in July 1998 as an assistant professor, and later promoted to associate professor without tenure. According to standard practice, Lauffenburger solicited letters from senior colleagues in the field to comment on the importance of Sherley’s work. Then the senior faculty of the department met in December to discuss the letters, or “side letters,” that he requested for comment. Sherley’s work focuses on the use of adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field’s elite journals.

But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley’s publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.
Changes to UA, GSC Bylaws to Help ASA

Williams and Singh said they hope that allowing for more flexibility will empower the ASA executive board to act on its own more, with appropriate checks and balances from student groups, the GSC, and the UA.

Communication to be improved

Part of the change to the ASA will be improved communication with student groups. Many student groups simply want to be informed about what the ASA is doing, particularly through an improved Web Site where procedures and policies are made clear, Williams said.

“I don’t think the ASA has a particular difficulty in communicating with student groups... it’s just that there needs to be more emphasis on keeping things up to date and clear,” Singh said.

“We will send the information [for students to be involved in the changes] at the appropriate time, and we will send things out to student groups and get feedback from representatives,” he said.

Changes to be written into bylaws

The changes will most likely be written into the UA and GSC bylaws, similar to the way other GSC and UA committees are defined, Singh said. The existing “constitution” will no longer be used. The bylaws will establish operating guidelines for the ASA and clearly define how they can be changed.

Singh and Williams first brought up the issue of the ASA’s unclear role with respect to the GSC and UA at the ASA General Body Meeting in late October.

The GSC will vote on the bylaws change for the ASA in March, Singh said. The UA Senate will probably also vote in March, Williams said.

Royal Bengal (India)

Boston’s only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

Open Daily Except Monday

11:30 am – 11:30 pm

Lunch Buffet $6.95

Reasonably Priced Dinners

Unique Bengali fish dishes include Paabda maachher jhol, Rui maachher kalia, Moehler gauto, Shorshe Ilish

Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order. 10% Discount on $30 (or more) order with MIT ID.

Royal Bengal (India)

Boston’s only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

Open Daily Except Monday

11:30 am – 11:30 pm

Lunch Buffet $6.95

Reasonably Priced Dinners

Unique Bengali fish dishes include Paabda maachher jhol, Rui maachher kalia, Moehler gauto, Shorshe Ilish

Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order. 10% Discount on $30 (or more) order with MIT ID.

Changes to UA, GSC Bylaws to Help ASA

ASA, from Page 1

Williams and Singh said they hope that allowing for more flexibility will empower the ASA executive board to act on its own more, with appropriate checks and balances from student groups, the GSC, and the UA.

Communication to be improved

Part of the change to the ASA will be improved communication with student groups. Many student groups simply want to be informed about what the ASA is doing, particularly through an improved Web Site where procedures and policies are made clear, Williams said.

“I don’t think the ASA has a particular difficulty in communicating with student groups... it’s just that there needs to be more emphasis on keeping things up to date and clear,” Singh said.

“We will send the information [for students to be involved in the changes] at the appropriate time, and we will send things out to student groups and get feedback from representatives,” he said.

Changes to be written into bylaws

The changes will most likely be written into the UA and GSC bylaws, similar to the way other GSC and UA committees are defined, Singh said. The existing “constitution” will no longer be used. The bylaws will establish operating guidelines for the ASA and clearly define how they can be changed.

Singh and Williams first brought up the issue of the ASA’s unclear role with respect to the GSC and UA at the ASA General Body Meeting in late October.

The GSC will vote on the bylaws change for the ASA in March, Singh said. The UA Senate will probably also vote in March, Williams said.

Royal Bengal (India)

Boston’s only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

Open Daily Except Monday

11:30 am – 11:30 pm

Lunch Buffet $6.95

Reasonably Priced Dinners

Unique Bengali fish dishes include Paabda maachher jhol, Rui maachher kalia, Moehler gauto, Shorshe Ilish

Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order. 10% Discount on $30 (or more) order with MIT ID.

Royal Bengal (India)

Boston’s only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

Open Daily Except Monday

11:30 am – 11:30 pm

Lunch Buffet $6.95

Reasonably Priced Dinners

Unique Bengali fish dishes include Paabda maachher jhol, Rui maachher kalia, Moehler gauto, Shorshe Ilish

Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order. 10% Discount on $30 (or more) order with MIT ID.

Free tickets for MIT students

2 great concerts = one great weekend!

Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Saturday, January 22, 2005

8:00pm

Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

Boston Connection

Michael McLaughlin, Murder (2003) (Selected score from the 7th annual NEC/BMOP composition contest)

Elliott Schwartz, Chamber Concerto IV (1978) (Winner of the 6th annual NEC/BMOP concerto competition)

Donald Martino, Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra (2003)


TICKETS AVAILABLE

at the MIT Office of the Arts: E15-205

T, W, and Th from 10am - 4pm

One ticket per valid MIT student ID

Collage New Music

Sunday, January 23, 2005

7:30 p.m.

Paine Hall, Harvard University

Steve Reich, Nagoya Marimbas (1994)

Morton Feldman, False Relationships and the Extended Ending (1968)

Osvaldo Golijov, Mariel (2003)

Pierre Boulez, sur Incises (1999) (Boston Premiere)

No tickets are required for Collage New Music Concerts.

Simply present your MIT student ID at the box office on the night of the performance.

Made possible through the generosity of the members of the Council for the Arts at MIT

http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html

This IAP, the Rainbow Coffeehouse invites you to participate in a fun 'n enlightening game-show followed by a delicious FREE Indian dinner.

Win exciting prizes and set all your doubts to rest.

Who: Free and open for all

When: 21st January

7.30 p.m.

Where: Bush Room (10-105)

http://web.mit.edu/gib-coffees/www/
SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP
PALO ALTO RESEARCH CENTER

The researchers at the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) invented personal distributed computing, graphical user interfaces, the first commercial mouse, bit-mapped displays, Ethernet, object-oriented programming, laser printing, and many of the basic protocols of the Internet. Today, our research interests range from atoms, to algorithms, to anthropology, involving many areas of computer science as well as the physics of electronic materials. Our undergraduate internship program is looking for students of high academic and technical achievement, interested in a summer internship in a research environment.

QUALIFICATIONS
PARC’s interests lie in the areas of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Math, Physics, Linguistics, Anthropology, and Sociology. Students from any of these disciplines are encouraged to apply. Selections are based on information contained in the student’s application and upon on-campus interviews in mid-February. We make our hiring decisions by late-March. The program is small, encompassing about 12 interns on average, and only students from UC-Berkeley, MIT, Cornell, and Stanford are considered.

HOW TO APPLY
Applicants should provide their resume, transcript and optional letters of reference from relevant summer jobs or significant UROP experience while at the university level. Contact MIT’s career center to submit your application on InterviewTRAK: http://web.mit.edu/career/www/students/monstertrak.html
Our job posting is listed under the following ID: 861313.

More information is also available at:
http://www.parc.com/company/employment/undergraduate.html
Council for the Arts at MIT Funding Available!

Next application deadline: January 28, 2005!

Please contact the director of the Council for the Arts at MIT, Susan Cohen, at cohen@media.mit.edu, to make an appointment to discuss your project and the Council’s application process.

Requests for funding submitted on this deadline must be for projects that begin no sooner than March 10, 2005

Important information is available on the web:


Application form: http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantform.html
The vote passed with 37 for, 5 against, and 4 abstaining.

Thomas E. Robinson, program coordinator of student life programs, said that in addition to coordinating LBGT activities and relating to issues in the MIT community, the assistant dean would be able to reach out to other groups such as dormitories, fraternities, sororities, living groups, athletics teams, and minorities.

LBGT group initiated proposal
The LBGT proposal was originally put forth by the LBGT Issues Group, a community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni that meets monthly to discuss projects intended to address issues facing the MIT LBGT community. The proposal recommends that the new office be created within the Office of Student Life.

Currently, LBGT programs fall under the MIT Student Life Program, but there is no office or official position specifically dedicated to coordinating LBGT services. Robinson said that he and James Collin, assistant dean for counseling and support services, have been volunteering to coordinate LBGT services.

“Most of our peer institutions across the country have full-time staffing positions” similar to the proposed position, Robinson said.

Funding tops students’ concerns
Some committee members expressed concern about funding the proposal given MIT’s recent budget cuts. “Their concern was money,” Robinson said, referring to the other GSC representatives.

In the proposal, the LBGT Issues Group requested $65,000 annually for salary and benefits for the new position, $25,000 of which has already been secured through an alumni gift and from the Office of Student Life. Rubineau said that committee members are “trying to secure more of the funding through donors so it won’t be a big burden for the Institute.”

Robinson said that the GSC is the student group to officially endorse the LBGT Staffing Proposal. He said that Larry G. Benedict, Dean of Student Life, was contacted in December regarding the position and presently, the proposal is “under review.” Other members of the faculty and administration have endorsed the proposal, including Alan E. Siegel, Chief of Mental Health Services. Robinson said that he hopes action will be taken by this summer.

GSC passes other legislation
The GSC approved the LBGT Staffing Proposal endorsement, the GSC also unanimously passed two amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

One amendment simplified the description of the operation of the graduate student union. Muddy Charles Pub at Walker Memorial to allow the Board of Governors more liberty in running the pub. The amendment also revokes the ex-officio membership of the Associate and Assistant Deans for Graduate Education to the pub’s board.

The other amendment changes the GSC Constitution to make it easier to add to the council positions for representatives of newly-built graduate residences.

Mystery Hunt Causes Frustration, Pleasure
Mystery Hunt, from Page 1

of clothing “tie,” stumped Physical Plant for 18 hours. He said that a member of the writing team went to Random Hall to check on their progress and walked by a lounge where articles of clothing from previous rounds were assembled.

When the writer saw a tie, he asked, “What do you mean, you’re stuck?” said Vandiver. Only a few hours later did Physical Plant understand what he meant, Vandiver said.

At one point, Physical Plant was so frustrated with that puzzle that they “pulled out the Ouija Board,” but unfortunately, it did not give them the correct answer, he said. Vandiver said that Physical Plant was already thinking about writing next year’s Hunt, but “it’s a process that’ll take a while.”

He said that he understood that about 17 man-years of thinking occurs during the hunt and that number “seems right to him.”

Some less serious about Hunt

Yang Ruan ’07 was a member of the team Forgive Me Father, which included about 30 members from Third East and Second West halls in East Campus.

“For us, this year at least, it was much more social hunt than like a sweat team, super-suave expert hunter hunt,” she said. She said she enjoyed the environment of the hunt. “In our room, there were a lot of people who were sleeping on the floor,” and we “had to walk around them.”

“IT was like a war zone... in the trench,” and the “casualties of war, killing all around you,” she said.

Robert H. Speer ’06, a member of the the Experimental Study Group/Mathcamp team Manic Sages, which finished in a tie for fourth, participated in the hunt for the third time this year.

“We were coming up with these ludicrous-sounding answers... every once in a while, one of the ludicrous-sounding answers would be right,” he said.

Speer said he most enjoyed the “flash of inspiration” that comes after “you’ve been staring at this puzzle for hours.” He’s an “amazingly satisfying feeling,” he said.

Speer said that the hunt “got [his] adrenaline flowing,” and he “only slept for eight hours in the whole hunt.”

Puzzles earn rave reviews

“I thought the hunt was really well done this year,” said Catherine Havasi ’03, a member of Manic Sages. “We were “a lot of really neat puzzles.” Havasi slept only five and a half hours through the duration of the hunt.

Speer agreed that the hunt was well-written, saying that the “writing team made sure that all their puzzles fit together well” and “had a range of difficulties in the puzzles.”

Speer said the hunt was “more fun this year” than before because his team did better.

Brian J. Pepper ’08, a member of Project Electric Mayhem, a team composed mostly of members from Fifth East hall from East Campus and Tau Epsilon Phi, said that he most enjoyed the duck puzzle, a feature of each year’s hunt and “an elaborate puzzle which requires you to perform a number of steps in order.” This year, the duck puzzle featured a Lord of the Rings theme, he said.

“It’s so out there that you couldn’t help but smile,” he said about the puzzle.

Puzzlers excited for next year

Havasi plans on participating next year and said she is excited that Physical Plant won since she is “looking forward to the kind of hunt they’re going to write.”

Next year, Pepper said, his team, which came in fifth this year, is planning on “planning on winning.”

By Kathy Dobson

MACROEPIDEMIOLOGY

BE.102 TR3-4:30 56-169 (U) SPRING 2005 (3-0-9)

Created for new to advanced students interested in a personal integrated perspective of the physiologic, genetic and environmental causes of common mortal diseases. Each student will learn by organizing and analyzing multiple levels of data for a self-chosen disease such as a cancer, vascular disease or diabetes. Beginning with the quantitative complete history of common disease mortality in the U.S. (See http://epidemiology.mit.edu.) students will create qualitative, then quantitative, models based on human populations genetics, human somatic genetics, cellular and molecular biology and the history of changes in the human environment. Includes technological approaches to discover the genes, if any, carrying risk for common diseases.

Bill Thilly, ’67, Professor of Genetic Toxicology and Biological Engineering

http://www.timer.mit.edu>

Campus Safety 101

Margeaux Randolph, Shavonne Hylton
Thu Jan 20, 04-05:00 pm, 2-136

No enrollment limit, no advance sign up
Single session event

Ever wish you could call a cab and charge the fare to your Bursor Account? Would you like Saferide to come around you more often? When you walk across Briggs Field, do you feel there should be more lighting?

Well come join us, a group of MIT students, as we address safety issues that affect all members of our community. We’ll discuss Saferide; crime mapping; streetlights; a bill we’re presently working on for representatives of newly-built graduate residences.

Web: <http://student.mit.edu/aps/nshavone.html>
Refresments provided

January 19, 2005

GSC Recommends New LBGT Office, Dean Position

At the January General Council meeting last Wednesday, the Graduate Student Council voted to formally endorse the creation of an Office and Assistant Dean of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Services.

The new office and assistant dean will “serve as a centralized place” to coordinate existing services and provide support and education to the MIT community on LBGT issues, said Brian A. Rubineau, G, the author of the proposal.

This space donated by

This space donated by

This space donated by
The Tech is in your future

join@tt.mit.edu
The Beinecke Scholarship

$32,000

To current Juniors for graduate school support in the arts, humanities and social sciences

Information Session Thu Jan 20, 4:00pm, Room1-135

http://www.beineckescholarship.org/

+++++++++++++++++++++

Five Weeks in Japan

All expenses paid*

Open to all** MIT students with keen interests in Japan. Fellows will visit Nagoya, Tokyo, and other parts of Japan for approximately five weeks during the summer. The Visiting Fellows will experience as many aspects of Japanese life as possible, and meet with renowned Japanese executives, politicians, artisans, and educators, all while experiencing and learning about Japanese society from an inside perspective. Japanese language proficiency is neither required nor an advantage in the selection process.***

Information Session

Friday January 21, 2005
4:00 PM - Room 2-105

www.kawamurafellowship.org

**Yes, all. Freshmen, Seniors, Grad Students. All. Your major doesn’t matter either.
***Seriously. You don’t need to speak a word. Nothing.
Swimming, Diving Teams Keep Records Going Strong

Two of those victories were particularly crucial to the final point total, as they lead 1-2-3 sweeps by MIT. In the 100 free, Edwards winning a closely followed by teammates Josiah B. Rosmarin ‘06 and Snyder, while in the breast, Carlucci teamed up with Matthew G. Angle ‘07 and Jeffrey B. Gilbert ‘05 to dominate Springfield.

Other wins for MIT came from Mark Y. Liao ’06, who produced an outstanding back half effort in the 1650 free to win by less than six tenths of a second, Matthew Fuzellier ‘05 in the 200 back, and Calvin D. Kao ’08 in the 200 IM.

Kao’s victory sprung the team into motion, with Edwards, Varsanik, and Carlucci following his lead to take the 100 back, fly, and breast, respectively. The string of individual victories in the stroke events gave the Beavers command of the meet again, and they sealed the victory with two victories in free events — Kao and Liao teamed up to finish 1-2 in the 500 free over a fast-approaching swimmer from Brandeis, and the 400 free relay of Fuzellier, Snyder, Kao, and Varsanik touched first as well.

The women had slightly more success in the individual events, with two 1-2-3 sweeps and three athletes winning two events apiece. The first sweep came with Edwards leading the way in the 200 IM, followed closely by Jacquetlyn M. Nowicke ‘08 and Dere. The second sweep came in the 100 breast, with Erin M. Zoller ’05 taking top honors and Dere and Chambers close behind.

Double individual event winners for the Beavers included Thornton in the 200 and 500 free, Brophy in the 100 and 500, and Edwards in the 100 back and 200 IM.

Topping off the exceptional performance were MIT’s relay squads. Edwards, Thornton, Larsson, and Brophy took the 200 medley relay, while Zoller, Nowicke, Larsson, and Jennifer D. DeBoer ’05 touched first in the 400 free relay.

The weekend victories leave the women’s team undefeated at 9-0, while the men’s team moves up to 7-1. Both teams are off from competition until a Jan. 23 home meet against Tufts University.
Men's, Women's Swim Teams Win Against Springfield

By Victoria K. Anderson

The MIT Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving teams took their first ever pair of victories against New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference foe Springfield College at home on Sunday, Jan. 16.

The MIT men last beat Springfield in 2001 and the women have not been victorious against them since 2000; however, at no time have both squads earned dual meet victories over the Pride in the same season. This year, on the other hand, the men won 157-143, and the women swept the field in the 100-yard fly, as well as the 100 and 200 back. Her 200 back victory was particularly impressive, as it involved beating out Springfield senior Megan Skinner, who has won the event by a decisive margin at the NEWMAC Championships the past three years and made the top eight at the NCAA Division III Championships each of those years as well. Brophy complemented Edwards’ work in the stroke events when she won the 50, 100, and 200 free events.

The women’s team point total was greatly helped by the efforts of Moria C. Chambers ’06 and Melissa E. Dere ’06, who teamed up for a 1-2 finish in the 100 and 200 breast, with Chambers touching first in both races.

Other MIT women scoring victories over the Pride included Katherine C. Thornton ’07 in the 1650 free and Annika S. Larsson ’08 in the 200 fly. Additionally, in the 400 medley relay, Edwards, Dere, Larsson, and Brophy won over Springfield, which has traditionally beaten MIT in the event at dual meets and at the NEWMAC championships.

For the men, the 400 medley relay of Craig M. Edwards ’07, Joseph P. Carlucci ’05, Jonathan S. Varsanik ’05 and Grady A. Snyder ’06 set the tone for an MIT-dominated meet by winning the race with nearly 10 seconds over the top squad from Springfield.

Varsanik, Edwards, and Carlucci also racked up two individual wins apiece, with Varsanik winning the 50 free and 100 fly, and Edwards winning a 1-2 finish in the 100 and 200 breast, with Chambers touching first in both races.

Other MIT women scoring victories over the Pride included Katherine C. Thornton ’07 in the 1650 free and Annika S. Larsson ’08 in the 200 fly. Additionally, in the 400 medley relay, Edwards, Dere, Larsson, and Brophy won over Springfield, which has traditionally beaten MIT in the event at dual meets and at the NEWMAC championships.