

## LaVerde's Market Open 24-Hrs. During the Week This Semester

By Gireeja Ranade  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

LaVerde's Market is now open 24 hours a day, Sunday through Thursday.

The market, as well as its deli counter, is operating as normal throughout the night, said Chris Silverio, assistant manager of the store. The change went into effect on Sunday.

Store manager Marc Semon said that the change was made in response to "an awful lot of requests" for extending the hours, especially since the 24-hour Coffeehouse closed. Semon said that this is something store proprietor Frank LaVerde has been considering for many years.

Frank LaVerde did not return requests for comment.

### Coffeehouse closing major factor

Assistant director of Enterprise Services John M. McDonald said that LaVerde's is trying to fill the need for late-night coffee and food since the Coffeehouse closed last year. He also suggested that the store will provide competition for MacGregor Convenience, formerly the only on-campus food option open after midnight.

However, Silverio said that this change had nothing to do with the late hours of MacGregor Convenience.

Director of the Campus Activities Complex Phillip J. Walsh said that the Coffeehouse could not be sustained because it was losing money. He said that LaVerde's may be more successful in their late-night venture because of their location on the first floor of the Student Center and a faithful client base. Use of the MIT card has also made the store accessible to more students who use Tech-Cash.



PON-PON YEH

Luke S. Zettlemoyer G does some light shopping at LaVerde's Market located in the student center. LaVerde's recently extended its hours, and is now open 24 hours a day, Sunday through Thursday.

McDonald said that Laverde's is the only place on campus that could operate 24 hours a day because no other place has the sales volume to

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## Ring Features Secret Message, Nod to Stata

By Lauren E. LeBon  
STAFF REPORTER

Early Saturday evening, I lined up with hundreds of my fellow sophomores along Memorial Drive,

### Reporter's Notebook

lured by the promise of free food, prizes, and a first glance at the design of our class ring.

The ring committee revealed the design for the Class of 2006 Brass Rat in a magically-transformed Walker Memorial on Saturday night.

The features on the ring came from several significant events that occurred on and off campus in the past two years, including the freshmen on campus policy, the retirement of President Vest, the construction of new buildings on campus, the exploration of Mars, and the 2003 snow day.

The committee explained that the main inspiration for the 2006 ring came from Van Gogh's 1889 painting "Starry Night," which you may recognize from many calendars and dorm room walls. Elements from the painting can be seen in the swirling skies on the bezel and the class shank.

The swirlies, the ring committee wrote in our ring brochures, are supposed "to remind us of that change and how fleeting our college experience is."

I found the painting to be a strange choice to use on our ring. Sure, it's pretty, but the work has some strong associations with the artist's legendary "mad genius" personality.

Van Gogh painted the 19th cen-

tury masterpiece during his stay in a French mental institution, shortly before his death in 1890.

Trapped from the outside world, and spinning deeper and deeper into insanity, Van Gogh painted from memory, depicting the world outside the institute walls as a chaotic place.

On second thought, maybe the painting is more appropriate than I thought.

### When your powers combine...

A unique feature of this year's Brass Rat is the hidden message encoded in the engravings on the side of the ring. (See page 16.)

The inside engraving has the MIT skyline, with Simmons Hall, the Stata Center, and the Green Building. The outside engraving depicts the Boston skyline, complete with the Citgo sign.

When two members of the Class of 2006 put their rings together, Captain Planet-style, the engravings come together to reveal the letters "MIT." The Powerpoint animation of this feature at the premiere drew "oohs" and "aahs" from the crowd.

### Seal shank features two men

This year's seal shank featured two men, to the delight of the crowd. The genders of the two figures on the official MIT seal are often points of contention each year, with some portion of each class wanting the seal to be updated to reflect the nearly equal population of undergraduate men and women on campus. The laborer wears a raccoon hat, as the members of our class were the "pioneers" of several

Brass Rat, Page 16

## Harvard Sees Decrease In Non-Tenured Women

By Marcella Bombardieri  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard University has seen a sharp drop in the proportion of women serving as junior professors in the humanities, according to newly released numbers, leaving officials anxious about a problem they had never expected to face in 2004.

Only 21, or 35 percent, of the school's nontenured humanities professors are women, a drop from the mid-1990s, when women were nearly half of all assistant and associate professors in the humanities.

"I think it's a disturbing trend that requires attention," Harvard president Lawrence H. Summers said in an interview. "The key to ultimately diversifying the faculty is developing as strong a pipeline as possible."

Across all subject areas at Harvard, including the sciences and the social sciences, the proportion of female junior professors has

remained at about 30 percent for a decade.

### Drop in contrast to sciences

The figures contrast with Harvard's success in boosting the number of women in senior faculty positions and in the sciences. Those numbers have been growing steadily over the years, thanks to a long push to change an institution that three decades ago had only a handful of tenured women.

Women are now earning more than half of all doctorates in the United States and are especially numerous in the humanities. As a result, Harvard leaders are asking why they are seeing a dropoff in the proportion of younger scholars.

"We worry it might not be a statistical aberration; it might be a trend," said Maria Tatar, dean for the humanities. "I sometimes worry that some women don't apply to

Harvard, Page 21



2006 RING COMMITTEE

The bezel of the class of 2006 brass rat, which was unveiled at the ring premiere last Saturday. This year's design features swirls from Van Gogh's "Starry Night," a strand of DNA, and tributes to several campus hacks.



The Vagina Monologues open at MIT for the third straight year.  
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Chancellor Clay reflects on life and gardening.  
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OPINION  
Chen Zhao describes why Ralph Nader's 2004 candidacy is a bad decision.  
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# WORLD & NATION

## Proceeds From Church Sales To Pay Off Debts

THE BOSTON GLOBE

BOSTON

Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley has decided that proceeds from church properties sold under his plan to reduce the number of parishes in the archdiocese will go to the central fund of the Boston Archdiocese and not to the parishes left to take on Catholics displaced by the cutbacks.

In a Feb. 13 letter to all Boston priests, Bishop Richard G. Lennon, O'Malley's top deputy, wrote that the archbishop had decided to close the parishes through a canonical procedure known as suppression, which allows the sale proceeds to pay off the debts of the archdiocese.

O'Malley has set a March 8 deadline for leaders from about 80 regional clusters of parishes to recommend which parishes should be shut down under the consolidation plan. Those recommendations will be then considered by two higher groups of church officials before they are submitted to O'Malley for his review.

## Sept. 11 Hijacker Identified Two Years before Attack

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

U.S. investigators were given the first name and telephone number of one of the Sept. 11 hijackers two and a half years before the attacks on New York and Washington, but the United States appears to have failed to aggressively pursue the lead, according to U.S. and German officials.

The information — the earliest known signal that the United States received about any of the hijackers — has now become an important element of an independent commission's investigation into the events of Sept. 11, officials said Monday. It is considered particularly significant because it may have represented a missed opportunity for U.S. officials to penetrate the German terror cell that was at the heart of the plot.

In March 1999, German intelligence officials gave the CIA the first name and telephone number of Marwan al-Shehhi, and asked the Americans to track him. After the Germans passed the information on to the CIA, they never heard back from the Americans about the matter until after Sept. 11, a senior German intelligence official said. After receiving the tip, the CIA decided that "Marwan" was probably an associate of Osama bin Laden, but never tracked him down, U.S. officials say.

## Youths Leaving Foster Care Are Found Facing Big Obstacles

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

A rare study of young adults on the verge of leaving foster care systems reveals a bleak portrait of these 17-year-olds in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. Many are lagging desperately behind in school, running into trouble with the law and struggling with psychological problems.

The survey of 732 youths, which will be released Tuesday by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, offers a glimpse at a group often overlooked in the piles of studies and surveys: young people, once removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect, now preparing to exit the child welfare system as adults.

"These are people heading out into the world who will have far less support than the average middle-class, working-class kids," said Mark E. Courtney, the study's author and the director of Chapin Hall Center. "Up until now they have had the protection of the child welfare system. And as they head out, the deck, as you can see, is stacked against them."

# Peace in Haiti Delayed While Rebel Soldiers Patrol Cities

By Lydia Polgreen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAP-HAITIEN, HAITI

Rebel soldiers consolidated their grip on Haiti's second-largest city on Monday, sending truckloads of armed men to patrol the streets and going from house to house arresting pro-government militants, while political opposition leaders asked for an additional 24 hours to mull a peace proposal presented by the Bush administration and its allies.

"They're moving in our direction, but we're not there yet," said one administration official briefed on the talks.

Residents pillaged and burned any symbol they could find of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his party, Lavalas, exacting chaotic revenge on a government they say terrorized them. Looters took the benches and lawyers' tables from the courthouse before setting it on fire, and helped themselves to the contents of houses of government supporters.

"Lavalas is gone, they ran away," said a man who struggled to strap a dining chair he took from the house of a Lavalas partisan to the back of his bicycle while balancing a stereo speaker under his arm. "Now this is mine."

In the capital, Port-au-Prince, 50 Marines arrived on Monday afternoon to secure the U.S. Embassy, while some panicky government ministers began casting about for secure hiding places and other vowed to repel the rebel advance.

Louis-Jodel Chamblain, leader of the rebel troops, said their capture of Cap-Haitien, the birthplace of the slave uprising that created the world's first black republic 200 years ago, is a symbol of their intention to wrest control of the entire nation and expel the embattled president. "Cap-Haitien is a symbol of Haiti's freedom," Chamblain said. "This fight is to liberate the Haitian people under the regime of Jean-Bertrand Aristide."

But there were some indications Monday that the rebels might accept the peace plan that was put forth this weekend by Roger F. Noriega, the assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, and accepted in principle by Aristide.

Over the weekend, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell called a leader of the opposition, Andre Apaid, to urge him to sign onto the agreement, and U.S. diplomats made similar contacts with rebel leaders, officials said.

"We told them if they need more

time, to take more time," a senior state department official said.

Opposition leaders have told Powell that they were having a difficult time committing to an agreement, in part because their followers are so radicalized and opposed to leaving Aristide in office, even in a titular role.

Under the proposed accord, put forth by the United States and representatives from the Organization of American States and France, a tripartite commission would be set up to name a new prime minister and a government of national unity. Aristide would remain as president.

The international community would take part in the commission and serve as a sort of referee between the president and his enemies, according to officials briefed on the offer, which has not been made public. The new government would lay the groundwork for parliamentary elections sometime later this year and presidential elections toward the end of Aristide's term, in 2006.

Whatever happens in the peace talks, the taking of Cap-Haitien has effectively put the rebels in control of not just half the country but Haiti's heartland, where the original slave uprising started.

# Bush Starts Campaign Season With Criticism For Democrats

By Richard W. Stevenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush kicked off his general election campaign on Monday night, shedding his above-the-fray posture to deliver a robust defense of his record and begin an assault on the Democratic front-runner, Sen. John Kerry.

Facing declining poll numbers and concerted Democratic criticism, and urged by many Republicans to accelerate his timetable for partisan engagement, Bush used a speech here to assert that the election would present a clear choice between his steady leadership and Democrats who could not be relied on to make the tough decisions necessary to deal with the economy and the threat from terror-

ism.

"It's a choice between keeping the tax relief that is moving this economy forward, or putting the burden of higher taxes on the American people," Bush said. "It's a choice between an America that leads the world with strength and confidence, or an America that is uncertain in the face of danger."

Without using Kerry's name, the president mocked him as a politician whose positions change with the wind. The Democratic field, Bush said, is "for tax cuts and against them. For NAFTA and against NAFTA. For the Patriot Act and against the Patriot Act. In favor of liberating Iraq and against it. And that's just one senator from Massachusetts."

The speech, delivered at a fund-

raiser to benefit the Republican Governors Association, was billed by Bush's campaign as the start of a more aggressive phase of the race after months in which the president, to the growing consternation of some in his party, had remained largely on the sidelines.

Much of the speech was forward-looking. It sought to position Bush as optimistic and steady in the face of serious challenges to the country and relentless attacks by Democrats who, the president said, have failed to say how they would deal with the challenges the United States faces at home and abroad.

Campaign officials have said that Bush's first advertisement will focus on his accomplishments, and would not attack Kerry.

# WEATHER

## Unusually Normal

By Robert Lindsay Korty

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

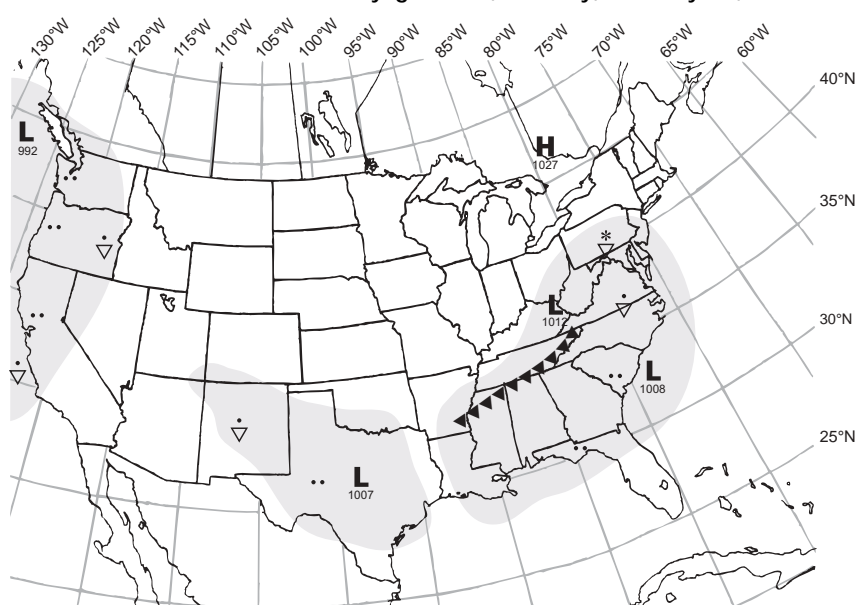
Weather reporters commonly dramatize the severity of a day's weather by commenting on how far a temperature or a precipitation total deviated from the normal value. In Boston on Feb. 24, the normal high temperature is 40°F (4°C), but this nomenclature is misleading. Climatologies are generated by a variety of means, but one common method uses a recent 30 year period, say, 1961-1990, from which an average of all the recorded temperatures may be computed. The normal temperature is formed from these average values after the data are smoothed with a running mean. From this base, current weather can be measured against some climatological expectation. Climatologies of standard deviations can be computed just as easily, but are seldom reported.

Large departures from average are far more common during winter than summer because the hemispheric temperature gradient is stronger and mixing across that gradient is more efficient during winter. The average high temperature in February is in the upper 30s°F (3-4°C), but it is common for temperatures to vary markedly between days in the 20s°F (-6 to -1°C) and others in the 50s°F (10-15°C). Large temperature swings ahead and behind of storms are customary during New England winters. With the storm track split to our north and to our south for much of this month, Boston temperatures have been near normal, and have not deviated far away. That stability is unusually tranquil for February, and it will continue through the end of the month.

### Extended Forecast

**Today through Thursday:** Sunny days, clear nights, and seasonably cool temperatures. Highs 35-40°F (2-4°C), lows 20-25°F (-6 to -4°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, February 24, 2004



| Weather Systems        | Weather Fronts     | Precipitation Symbols | Other Symbols |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>H</b> High Pressure | --- Trough         | Snow                  | Fog           |
| <b>L</b> Low Pressure  | — Warm Front       | Showers               | Thunderstorm  |
| <b>S</b> Hurricane     | ▲ Cold Front       | Light                 | Haze          |
|                        | ▲ Stationary Front | Moderate              |               |
|                        |                    | Heavy                 |               |

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# No Iraq Elections Until Late '04 At Earliest, Says U.N.'s Annan

By Warren Hoge

THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Kofi Annan SM '72 said Monday that credible national elections could be held in Iraq by the end of this year or early in 2005, but only if planning a framework for them began immediately.

In a report to the Security Council that portrayed Iraq as a country in deepening crisis, Annan said his special envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, and a team of U.N. elections experts had determined during a one-week trip there that it would take until May to set up that framework and then at least eight months from that point to organize the elections.

His report, written by Brahimi, said it was urgent that the Iraqis establish an independent election commission to come up with the technical and legal rules and structure for a national vote. The current American plan had envisioned full elections by the end of 2005.

While Annan said it was important to hold to the agreed June 30 deadline for the occupying powers to hand over authority in Iraq, he pointedly did not make any recommendation on what form of caretaker government ought to be created by that date. He said defining the mechanism for transferring sovereignty would be up to the Iraqis themselves.

Reiterating in his presentation that the report's conclusions were based on the "Iraqi consensus," Annan pledged U.N. assistance throughout the elections process. In that connection, Brahimi is expected to return to Baghdad next month.

Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister who recently completed two years as the U.N. envoy to Afghanistan, described Iraq darkly as a country of growing ethnic tensions that, unless urgently addressed, "could fuel the existing potential for civil strife and violence."

Outlining the stark dimensions of the problem, he said, "After

more than three decades of despotic rule, without the basic elements of the rule of law, a ruined economy, a devastated country, the collapse of state institutions, low political will for reconciliation and distrust among some Iraqis, conditions in Iraq are daunting."

He said the political class was increasingly fragmented, communal politics were polarized and the political process "remains limited to a few actors, with varying credibility."

Some actions by the Iraqi Governing Council are serving to increase rather than relieve tensions, Brahimi said. He cited one in particular, a decision placing family law under the jurisdiction of religious doctrine. He said women saw the move as "an ominous indication of what might be coming."

In the report, Brahimi listed a number of alternative suggestions for a caretaker government that he had heard from Iraqis, without indicating which, if any, he might favor.

# Palestinian Authority Brings Case On West Bank Wall to Int'l Court

By Gregory Crouch

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE HAGUE

An international court opened a hearing on Monday into the Israeli barrier being built in and around the West Bank, as pro-Palestinian demonstrators here voiced encouragement and worried supporters of Israel looked on.

In a three-hour presentation to the International Court of Justice, the Palestinian Authority argued that the partially-built barrier of barbed wire, ditches, watch posts and concrete walls is both a violation of international law and an attempt to annex Palestinian land.

Israel dismissed Palestinian assertions as the first-day of the hearing drew to a close, saying the barrier is a necessary bulwark against suicide bombers and falls within the legal definition of self-defense.

"Alongside the quality of life of Palestinians, we have to weigh the right to life for Israelis," said Daniel Taub, an Israeli government legal advisor. "And what we have to do is find the appropriate balance between the two."

Nasser al-Kidwa, the Palestinians' permanent observer to the United Nations, who made the

opening remarks to the court, said the barrier was blocking any chance for a better future.

"If completed, it will wall in most of the Palestinian people and will end the possibility of a two-state solution and thus end the chance of peace in the region," Kidwa said in an interview after the Palestinian presentation.

The World Court is slated to continue its hearing for two more days.

The U.N. General Assembly has asked the court for a nonbinding, advisory opinion about the legal consequences of the barrier's construction.

Israel filed a written submission to the court but will not appear before it, contending the court lacks the jurisdiction to rule in the matter.

"The court has been asked to pass judgment on a country's response to terrorism but not on the terrorists themselves," said Taub.

The legal proceedings topped an emotional day that saw Palestinian and Israeli organizations carrying out silent marches and noisy demonstrations.

Press photographers clamored to board the burned out wreckage of a Jerusalem passenger bus flown in as a backdrop for the demonstrations.

An El Al luggage tag was still affixed to the bus' bent and scarred frame.

Pro-Israeli organizations staged a silent march through city streets here that featured the photographs of nearly 1,000 victims of terrorism-related acts, including Rachel Koren Galran's two sons and husband.

All three were killed nearly two years ago in the suicide bombing of a Haifa restaurant.

"I'm here today to scream my pain to the world," said Galran, 50, adding that a barrier back then might have saved her family. Then again, maybe it would not have, she continued, but she believes it's worth a try.

"If we can make peace, we can remove it," she said.

Pro-Palestinian organizations came together at the courthouse in the afternoon for a separate rally, shouting along the way that "this wall must fall."

The barrier has cut off a number of Palestinians from their farms and families.

"This wall is the incarnation, the embodiment, of racism and apartheid," Azmi Bishara, an Arab legislator in the Israeli Parliament, told a crowd of several thousand.

# Airline Travelers Can Now Be Fined For Dangerous Objects in Carry-Ons

By Joe Sharkey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

That long-forgotten Swiss Army knife, or that joke that a screener deems threatening, could cost airline passengers hefty fines at airport security checkpoints under a new enforcement policy that the Transportation Security Administration put in place last week.

Previously, unless they found a gun or other obvious weapon, security screeners merely confiscated most prohibited items they found in carry-on bags. In one three-month period in 2002, for example, security screeners discovered nearly two million knives or blades of less than three inches, and 3.3 million other "sharp objects" in passenger bags, the TSA said.

The new guidelines spell out various levels of fines for prohibited items discovered at checkpoints, within secure airport areas, or on board aircraft. Loaded firearms, or those with ammunition accessible, warrant fines of \$3,000 to \$7,500, as well as criminal referral. For

unloaded firearms, fines are \$1,500 to \$3,000, plus criminal referral.

For other "weapons," which the TSA says include "sharp objects, clublike items and other prohibited items" that could be used as weapons, fines are \$250 to \$1,500.

The guidelines chiefly "send a message that it's no longer OK to say, 'I'm sorry, I forgot I had my gun in my bag,'" said Ann Davis, a TSA spokeswoman. The guidelines list "aggravating factors and mitigating factors" in giving authorities discretion in levying fines, she said. Among those factors are an alleged violator's attitude, past violation history and level of traveling experience.

The guidelines also set fines of \$1,500 to \$5,000 for "interfering with screening" through "physical contact," and fines of \$500 to \$1,500 for unspecified "nonphysical" interference. Anyone making "false threats," like joking about a bomb or a weapon, can be fined \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The tightened procedures are

meant to "encourage travelers to be a little more aware of what they're traveling with," Davis said. Since the TSA assumed responsibility for airport security in 2002, there have been 4,568 civil penalties assessed against passengers for prohibited items, she said.

In another development in airline security, a test of an iris-identification biometric identification system is under way at Frankfurt Airport in Germany for some Lufthansa passengers who have registered their iris data.

Passengers stand at an electronic device that checks their iris patterns against iris patterns previously registered on their passports. Seven of the devices, developed by Biometric Systems and Oki Electric Industry, are in place at immigration and emigration control gates at the airport. It is part of a pilot project that ultimately is expected to lead to use of iris-identification technology at airports in 18 European nations, the companies said.

# Questions Raised About a Market System for Mercury

THE NEW YORK TIMES

As the Bush administration presses ahead with a market-based plan to let power companies swap their rights to emit mercury, scientific and economic uncertainties leave a significant question unanswered: whether the plan will leave "hot spots" with extremely high levels of mercury around the country.

That issue will be among those explored Wednesday at hearings in Chicago, Philadelphia and Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, as the Environmental Protection Agency moves to draw up mercury regulations for coal-burning power plants by the end of the year.

Mercury emissions from coal-burning plants are not regulated under federal law, though the Clinton administration had moved toward strict regulation by classifying mercury as a hazardous pollutant under the Clean Air Act in 2000. Hazardous air pollutants, which include asbestos and lead, are generally subject to strict controls at each source, a requirement intended to bring down the level of pollutants everywhere.

The Bush administration wants mercury to fall under a less stringent section of the Clean Air Act that governs pollutants like those that cause smog and acid rain, which are not as toxic to humans.

Under the current proposal, power plants will buy and sell the rights to emit mercury into the air; the administration says this trading system is intended to cut mercury emissions by 70 percent by 2018. Critics say that developing technology will make it feasible to reduce mercury by 90 percent on a faster timeline.

# Army Cancels Helicopter Program

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Pentagon announced the cancellation on Monday of the \$38 billion Comanche helicopter program, a weapons system from the Cold War era that was decades behind in development and that became a victim to new technology and rising concerns over military costs and the federal budget deficit.

The decision brings an end to a program that began in 1983 and has, so far, cost \$8 billion, but has yet to produce a single operational craft. Moreover, the Comanche, a heavily armed reconnaissance helicopter, was designed for operations against massive Soviet and Warsaw Pact armies and has been overtaken by the Army's need for lighter and more flexible aircraft to fight against terrorists and guerrillas.

"It's a big decision," said Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff. "We know it's a big decision. But it's the right decision."

The cancellation must be approved by Congress when it reviews the Pentagon's budget for the 2005 fiscal year, which includes money for the Comanche. But many observers say the helicopter program lacks widespread support in Congress that many other weapons have and the Pentagon may not have a difficult time scrapping it.

In a Pentagon briefing Schoomaker, along with the acting Army secretary, Les Brownlee, said that the termination of the Comanche program would free up money for other Army aviation programs, mainly a modernization of the Apache attack helicopter now in combat use, along with increased purchases of Blackhawk helicopters and continued development of unmanned drones.

# Modified Seeds Found Amid Unmodified Crops

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Seeds that are supposed to be free of genetic engineering routinely contain biotechnology traits anyway, a public interest group said Monday.

The group, the Union of Concerned Scientists, said it had detected tiny quantities of genetically modified seeds in most of the bags of unmodified corn, soybean and canola seeds it tested.

If seeds do contain the traits, the group said, it would be virtually impossible for farmers to grow crops that are completely free of genetic modification. That could mean disruption of crop exports to countries that do not allow genetically engineered foods. It also makes it harder for organic farmers to supply customers who will not accept even tiny degrees of genetic engineering.

"The door to seed contamination is wide open," said Margaret Mellon, director of the food and environment program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, who added that her group's study was the first to systematically look at the issue. In a conference call with reporters, she said the genetically engineered seeds might have come from a mixing of seeds by farmers or seed companies or from pollination of seed crops by genetically engineered crops.

# Nader Says His Candidacy Won't Hurt Democrats

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In answer to a question on Monday morning after a speech at the National Press Club about his decision to run for president, Ralph Nader said, "This candidacy is not going to get many Democratic Party votes."

His support will come largely from "conservatives and independents who are very upset with Bush administration policies," Nader said, and he urged "the liberal establishment to relax and rejoice."

But based on who voted for him four years ago, his analysis looks shaky. Voters leaving polling places in 2000 were asked by Voter News Service, a consortium of television networks and The Associated Press, how they would have voted if George W. Bush and Al Gore had been the only candidates on the ballot.

Among Nader voters, 45 percent said they would have voted for Gore, 27 percent said they would have voted for Bush, and the rest said they would not have voted.

In California, where Nader received 4 percent of the vote, 46 percent said they would have voted for Gore and only 14 percent said they would have gone for Bush.

Because there is no reason to believe the breakdown was not similarly lopsided in other states, it is safe to assume that Nader cost Gore states that Bush narrowly won.

# OPINION



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## Letters To The Editor

### Some Solutions Are No Solution At All

Aimee Smith's one-sided Middle East story-telling is a naive, insensitive, and impractical point of view on a complex problem ["How to Bring Peaceful Coexistence Back to the Middle East," Feb. 17]. To Ms. Smith, anyone who supports Israel must be someone with "senseless devotion." She purports to present an objective history of the Middle East problem and proposes to solve it in a surprisingly simple way. The thing is, Ms. Smith suffers from an extreme case of "senseless devotion" to her own cause. Objectivity and productive discourse are last on her list.

One could easily expose the many ways in which Ms. Smith's account is deficient. One could point out that every Israeli annexation was the result of armed conflict caused at least in part by neighboring Arab countries, first in 1948, then in 1967, then 1973. One could mention the roughly 870,000 Jewish refugees, expelled from neighboring Arab countries at the time of Israel's creation, who somehow don't get factored into the refugee discussion (see the 2003 Conference: "Forgotten Refugees: Jews Expelled from Arab Countries" at <http://www.jimena-justice.org>). One should be outraged by the tasteless and revisionist comparison of Zionism, a movement to establish a safe homeland for Jews, to Nazism, a movement that led to the brutal and systematic murder of six million Jews (one third of all Jews in the world at the time).

But that is stooping to Ms. Smith's irresponsible, simplistic level of rhetoric instead of encouraging a realistic and fair direction for peace in the Middle East. Let's leave the intricate history lesson to a format that permits more than 500-word, oversimplified arguments. Let's instead focus on where we go from here, from the point of view of both Palestinians and Israelis.

The Middle East has significant problems, and all sides deserve significant blame. The senseless killings are heartbreaking and

demand that we all get involved immediately in helping the region find a lasting peace. But to propose a solution that involves eradicating one of the parties is naive at best, and criminal at worst.

Israel consists of six million Jews surrounded by hostile countries whose inhabitants number in excess of 200 million and whose land area is approximately 400 times larger than Israel. Given the implicit support of these countries for the PLO's stated goal to destroy Israel — specifically Article 21 of the PLO Charter, which calls for the armed liberation of "all of Palestine" — it's understandable that Israeli Jews feel the need to protect this small safehaven. In this context, Ms. Smith's solution is nothing less than the true ethnic cleansing and genocide of Jews in the Middle East.

Palestinians have long been mistreated by nations the world over, like pawns used for unrelated political ends by all sides. They have never had their own state. Many have been persecuted and killed by Israelis, Lebanese, and Jordanians — and that's just the 20th century. It is certainly understandable that Palestinians aspire to having a country of their own where they can be first-class citizens for the first time in history. They would likely build the region's first Arab democracy, a home where they can pursue their dreams of all free people.

Not surprisingly, Israelis and Palestinians have similar goals. We should request and require that all who participate in negotiations and peace efforts begin with this affirmation: that Palestinians and Israelis alike are entitled to a land of their own where they can live in peace, recognized by the world and protected as sovereign entities. Anything less is unacceptable. Anything less is unacceptable.

Certain individuals (on both sides) refuse this compromise. Their way is right while the other way is evil and intolerant. Their victory must be crushing: the other side must lose. That is the kind of solution Ms. Smith proposes: the "dismantling" of the opposing side in order to return to some mythical paradise she

believes her side would offer.

There is no such paradise. The blame and the responsibility to become better neighbors lie with both parties. Beneath all the partial truths, exaggerations, and false metaphors of Ms. Smith's opinion article lies an unforgiving approach that is far from a solution: it's part of the problem.

Ben Adida G

### Explaining MIT's Graduate Drop

The article "Grad Applications Dwindle As Fewer Foreigners Apply" suggests as the most likely reason for the drop in the number of international applications reactions to regulations for foreign visitors created or enforced after Sept. 11 [Feb. 20]. It seems to me that these are perhaps rather symptoms of a deeper, underlying problem which explains why fewer foreign students even try to apply for grad school in the United States. The problem may be that the policies of the U.S. government over the last years have had the unfortunate effect of creating the cliché of a nationalistic and militarized society. This stands in sharp contrast to the traditional perception of the United States as an open-minded and free society.

Still, this does not fully explain why MIT also seems to struggle with these consequences. Thanks to its pronounced international character, its fascinating students and faculty, and its dedication to the frontiers of science and engineering, one would expect it to be worldwide an outstanding symbol of successful and free academia beyond all political turmoil. What is wrong, then?

What could possibly infringe on the attractiveness of MIT among international students? I wonder if the close ties between parts of MIT's research and the military via funding and institutions like the "Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology" may be an answer to this question.

Sebastian Raupach G

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## Erratum

The title of a comic by Brian Loux that ran on Friday, Feb. 20 ["Ruth Perlmutter approves of this comic"] is not true. Ruth M. Perlmutter '04 did not approve of the comic.

# Speak Now, or Forever Hold — Nevermind, Just Be Quiet

Ken Nesmith

Opponents of gay marriage usually latch onto such a predictable grab bag of arguments that listening to them just becomes boring — marriage is between a man and a woman, gay people can't have kids, we can't hurt the institution of marriage, and so forth. Even casual browsing of the public discourse on these arguments will find those thoroughly discredited upon any serious investigation. Opponents end up sounding a bit like the Islamists who try to defend oppression of females, theocracy, and other primitivisms with impressive, but ultimately empty, rhetorical footwork.

In America, most of these represent attachments to an enduring, subtle mysticism that pervades this country's history and lifeblood, a mysticism that becomes unpleasantly visible when it attacks the constitutional linchpins put in place to preserve the nation's commitment to natural rights and freedoms. (I'd say, "Thank God," but I'm not that facetious.) Christianity makes persistent efforts to inject itself into public life via government — some judge will try to stick the Ten Commandments in a courthouse, schools will toss science to the wind and teach neat theories like creationism, and the most powerful members of Congress will declare themselves sent on holy missions to remake the world for Jesus's second coming by depopulating Palestine. These are not things that encourage me. They make me wonder just how great an edge we have on the various theocracies and decrepit socialist/communist states worldwide.

Our strong constitutional commitment to individual, natural rights, though, makes all the difference. Our country is founded on the ideas of classical liberalism, where government protects the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness of its citizens. Sure, we've added a few bonus missions to that, like going to Mars, advising people on what to eat, paying milk farmers, and building the occasional museum or water park, but relative to most states worldwide, we do a pretty decent job of allowing citizens to live as they please, keep what they create, and pursue what they'd like.

Sometimes the imposition of Christian morality comes cloaked in weak, secular arguments, such as "The Ten Commandments are the basis of our legal system and should be placed in courts." Or that marriage involves a social cost, and we shouldn't extend it to gays because they don't repay society with kids. President Bush's 1.5 billion dollar initiative to promote marriage cloaks his intentions under that mantle of social engineering: marriage yields positive effects for society, and so should be subsidized and encouraged as matter of good social planning.

In a recent column that drew a spate of strong responses, Adam Kolasinski made a similar claim that restricting marriage to straights is a matter of sound social engineering, and that any marriage, gay or otherwise,

that does not further the end of propagating society is a step towards the decline of the Western world [*The Tech*, Feb. 17]. While it was interesting to learn that plummeting birthrates are a social pathology, when most acknowledge it to be social progress, the mention of broken homes drew more of my attention. Divorce is, indeed, a big problem for straight people who get married. More than half of straight marriages end in divorce. Psychologist John Gottman and some mathematicians from the University of Washington thought it was enough of a problem that they made a predictive model for marital strife (and eventually divorce), based on observations of couples' behavior. It turns out that we

straight people could learn something from gays, who were more likely to "use affection and humor when a disagreement arose" and to "remain positive after a conflict." Pardon one more pun, but Gottman is straightforward: "When it comes to emotions, straight couples may have a lot to learn from gay and lesbian relationships." [*The Financial Times*, Feb. 13]

So if I were a social engineer, I can see how it'd be tempting to encourage gay marriage, to set a good example for straight society and further a stable society and a compelling state interest. I'm not, however, a social engineer, and neither is the government. Let's not mince words; assigning the government the role of social engineer is revolting. But since it's been mentioned, we could give it a try with some other, even more compelling state interests. Engineering a system that just produces kids isn't very ambitious; that's a fairly simple problem. Proponents of social engineering say nothing, implicitly or explicitly, that prohibits engineering society without regard for individual rights to pursue even better goals — say, reduction of crime.

Accept credulously, for a moment, that there's a compelling state interest to reduce crime. How can the state do so? Doing so racially would be a simple enough matter; while blacks comprise just 13% of the population, they are involved in 50% of its crimes, according to federal statistics. If we discouraged black procreation and the black population was to fall, perhaps we could really push those crime numbers down, serving a compelling state interest by sparing both individuals and society the huge costs of crime that are far greater than those of letting gays marry. If that was improperly engineered, and it's poverty that causes crime, we could encourage poor people not to procreate, with both the carrot and the stick: tax the poor for each child, and subsidize birth control and abortions.

There's a lot more we could do, such as

deciding not to grant the mentally retarded or handicapped, who impose huge costs both on individuals and public educational and health-care institutions, the costly privilege of birth, or engineering neighborhoods by ethnic composition to manage crime, or managing the deaths of the elderly, who put a huge strain on our healthcare system. These are examples of moving further toward an engineered, planned society. Extending webs of taxes and subsidies further and further makes our imagination the only limit to what we can engineer.

The other option is to move away from central planning and engineering, and move back towards a free society, where the government doesn't work towards building a centrally planned utopia, but simply protects the individual rights and freedoms of its citizens and lets them flourish. To make a dramatic understatement, it's a model that's worked pretty well historically, relative to attempts to plan society without respect for individual rights — which tend to result in slaughters, starvation, and other problems. Economist Friedrich Hayek's thoughts are useful here; he noted that in a planned society, the arbitrary preferences of the central planners are bound to replace the wants of citizens. History, and for that matter current affairs, show us where that leads. There's no way around it; repression of individual rights in the name of planning is not pleasant.

Absent mystical arguments or invitations to social engineering, opponents of gay marriage usually revert to a final escape tactic, asking, "If gays can, why can't anyone else?" Respected political voices like Congressman Rick Santorum ask as much, and place homosexuality in the same category as bestiality. Their objection is not substantive. Like the cases of those who don't want children, the sterile, and the elderly to marry for their inability to produce children, these cases are few and far between and we can dismiss them, leaving them at the bottom of a slippery slope that we won't reach. Viable gay relationships are common, and demand our attention. Other alternatives are not, and fail to merit attention.

The government's role is not to grant us rights and privileges, and it's not to engineer society. Its proper role is to defend the inherent individual rights of its citizens, including the right to liberty. The appropriate course of action will move us away from social engineering and control towards the end of freedom; it will not increase planning and control towards the end of a Christian — or secular — planner's utopia. As long as they don't interfere with one another, citizens in America get to decide how to live their lives. Even gay ones.

# Nader's Giant Blunder

Chen Zhao

Ralph Nader has once again put himself in position to spoil the presidential election not just for the Democratic Party, but for all who oppose what President George W. Bush stands for — unjust wars at the cost of true homeland security, tax cuts for the wealthy, and privileged at the expense of essential programs that provide key assistance to the poor, less regulations for large corporations despite the scarcity of natural resource, and much more.

The 2000 presidential election was one of the closest in American history. If only three electoral votes, the minimum that any state can have, had shifted from Bush to Democrat Al Gore, Bush would not be sitting in the White House right now. Overall nationally, Ralph Nader only received about three percent of the popular vote, but taking into account how small the margin was between Bush and Gore, it can only be concluded that had it not been for Ralph Nader's candidacy, Gore would have won.

In the crucial state of Florida, if just one measly percent of the people who had voted for Nader had instead cast their vote for Gore, the former vice president would have won Florida and the election. In New Hampshire, if a third of those who supported Nader had voted for Gore, Bush would have never moved into the White House.

Nader often asserts that his supporters would either have not voted or would have voted for Bush had he not run. Even if many of them would have stayed at home instead of going to the polls, it is hardly ridiculous to assume that at least one percent of them would have made their way to the polls and cast a vote for Gore. Also, few, if any at all, would have voted for Bush, since the Green Party and the Republican Party are miles apart ideologically.

In an interview on "Meet the Press" during which he announced his candidacy, Nader said, "After careful thought and my desire to retire our supremely selected president, I've decided to run as an independent candidate for president." There is no the more erroneous method of trying to unseat President Bush than to take votes away from a candidate who is challenging the president and who actually has a chance to win the election.

If he really hopes to ensure that Bush does not get another four years in the White House, Nader should throw his full support behind the Democratic nominee and urge all of his supporters to do the same. President Bush has a large following and stands a good chance of winning in 2004. The only way for those who oppose him to beat him is to put all of their support behind one man, and that man has to be one who has a realistic chance of winning. Needless to say, Ralph Nader is not that man.

The Democrats are not the only ones who have repeatedly urged him not to run in 2004. Even Nader's friends supporters have tried to talk him out of this ill-advised plan. The Green Party has refused him and a few of those who voted for him back in 2000 have launched a web site called [www.ralphdontrun.net](http://www.ralphdontrun.net).

The message of the website and the message of the Democratic Party are one and the same. The 2004 presidential election is very crucial in deciding the future of this country. Many issues are at stake, including the future of Iraq and Afghanistan, the role of the U.S. in the United Nations, universal health care for the last industrialized Western nation not to have it, actual improvement of our schools, true homeland security, protection for the environment, a woman's right to choose, protection of civil rights guaranteed in the Constitution, true separation of church and state, equality for homosexuals via the right to marry, and genuine fiscal responsibility as opposed to shady budget proposals. In order to put this country back on the right track, President Bush has to be defeated, and there is only one party that has the ability to do that.

Ralph Nader may have good ideas about how to reform this country, but the larger point remains that he has no chance of winning. In 2000, when everybody thought that he was going to get a relatively large amount of support, he only got about three percent — albeit a crucial three percent — of the national vote. That did not even put him over the five percent mark necessary to get federal funding for the next election. Nader may oppose the two-party system and his views may differ from those of the Democratic party, but he should not forget liberals' primary goal of this election: ousting George W. Bush. In order not to compromise that, Nader needs to put his personal vanity aside for the greater good.

# The Flaws of Affirmative Action: A Feminist Perspective

Andrea Crandall

Discrimination is a tenacious problem because it involves changing people's opinions about each other. Affirmative Action was designed to counteract this problem by promoting the rights of women and minorities in the workplace.

In March 1961, President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 10925, which aimed to insure that applicants for government positions would be judged without any consideration of their race, religion, or national origin. However, "Affirmative Action" as we know it is a creation of President Lyndon B. Johnson, who decided that fairness required more than a commitment to impartial treatment. President Johnson paved the way for future Department of Labor regulations, requiring all contractors to develop "an acceptable affirmative action program." Suddenly race, sex, and ethnicity were relevant to a person's ability to do their job.

Unfortunately, changing people's attitudes is more complicated than passing laws. Any law that systematically discriminates against one people to promote the "equality" of another is counterproductive. This policy reinforces the idea of difference between peoples' ability, and the idea that women need special treatment in the workplace.

Feminists hold the belief that women and men are equal. Affirmative Action seeks to undermine

discrimination by promoting the interests of women and minorities at the expense of equality. Employers are forced to consider not the qualifications of an individual alone, but their race, gender, and sexual orientation, as well. In an attempt to promote equality by brute force, affirmative action has undermined women's efforts for real equality. Any progress made by women now is cast into doubt, with people tempted to ask, "Is

*Any law that systematically discriminates against one people to promote the "equality" of another is counterproductive.*

the woman really outstanding or is she riding the coat tails of misguided social policy?"

Affirmative Action sends a negative message to the people it was designed to help. The message is: your failures are always the result of one group's machinations against you; you are not responsible for your own performance; you are a victim. This is the same self-defeating philosophy used to incite terrorists today, religious or otherwise.

Supporters of Affirmative Action do not argue

that this policy is "fair." They believe that discrimination is omnipresent, and blame for it rests squarely on the shoulders of white men, so the end justifies the means. They try to morally justify discrimination against men, if it means we get a few more jobs for women. Is this really countering discrimination or is this just constructing politically correct statistics? Ending discrimination means creating harmony and mutual respect between different groups of people — mutual respect, not "an eye for an eye" favoritism. Two opposing versions of discrimination do not cancel each other out to form equality.

Discrimination is an unfortunate reality. It is practiced by every race and gender under the sun. Laws that seek to counter discrimination by instituting unfair and unequal policies do nothing to correct the underlying cause of the problem: the perception that one group is inferior to another. The only way to correct this is to give everyone an equal opportunity to prove themselves. That means judging people on their qualifications, not identity politics.

Where real discrimination does take place, it should be dealt with in court. Discrimination should not be preempted in the workplace. An employer, like any other American, should be innocent until proven guilty and allowed to hire the best candidate for the job — irrespective of identity.

Andrea Crandall is a member of the class of 2004.

# Remaking America for New Global Realities

Basil Enwegbara

One of the reasons the British lost economic power to the United States and Germany beginning in the 1860s was because the British super-rich were buying the most expensive country homes and living lavish lifestyles. Their American entrepreneurial counterparts — Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius Vanderbilt, John D. Rockefeller, and others — were directing great personal wealth to building America's knowledge society through the education of the workforce.

These American business gurus understood that it was by equipping the workforce with the training it deserves that they would grow their businesses and compete against Britain. German diplomat Wilhelm von Humboldt also understood the power of scientific and engineering education and training, establishing the Humboldt University in Berlin in 1809 as the world's premier research university. This single decision propelled Germany along with the United States into leading the world in economic and military power. The failure to reverse the trend resulted not only in the melting of the British industrial powerhouse overnight, but also sapped its global strength. The grounding of

the British imperial machine was painfully humiliating for those in charge.

Is America today heading in the same historical direction? Or can America wake up and return to the envied path that it followed throughout the 20th century? But how can it do so without investing in the scientific and engineering training of citizens? And how can it do

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*The battle of this century will be fought not in the fields of war but in the trade and economic markets.*

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so if most of its elementary and high schools lack the science and math preparation necessary? What about the growing trend of locking up minority youths in prison, indirectly depriving them of the educational training they require to become responsible citizens in the 21st century?

As babyboomers retire and the nation ages, America will begin to depend on foreign scientists and engineers. To what extent can it

depend on outside help and still lead the world economically and militarily, especially with China and India fast encroaching? Under the circumstances, America cannot afford the luxury of keeping its minority citizens from participating in its scientific workforce.

History has taught us that no nation ever survives by placing its hope on foreigners. The British failed to use the Indians to fight their imperial wars in Asia. Rome was unable to effectively use foreigners under its empire for its defense. And America cannot look forward to the future without massively investing in its own citizens.

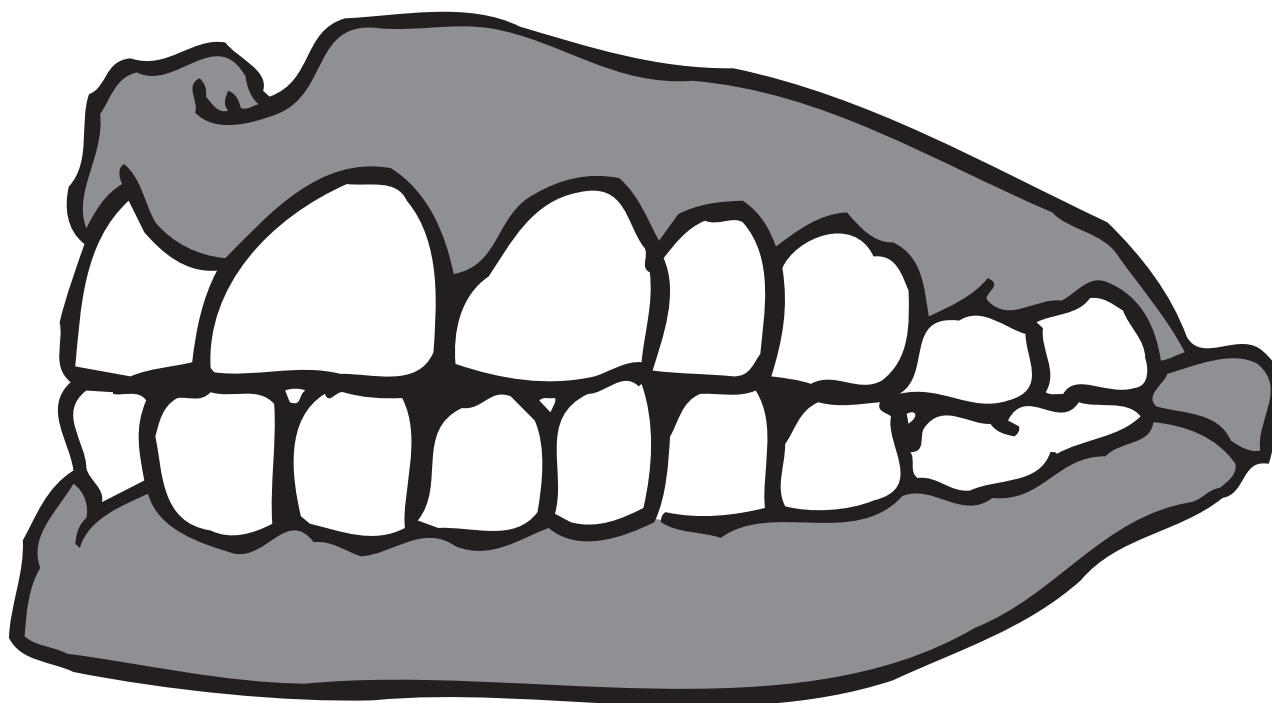
There is no amount of China and India bashing that can override global realities. The truth is that the global marketplace is no one's friend. If American companies refrain from investing in China or India, the Japanese and European companies will quickly fill in the gap. If Americans fail to import from China or India, the consequences to America will not only be the abandonment of the U.S. market, but probably also the formation of an Asian economic block as an alternative market. That could be followed by a new Asian currency zone to replace the dollar as the international currency. Also, it could happen that countries in the Asian and European economic zones begin to price oil in currencies different from

the dollar.

Such an economic battle will never be to America's long-term benefit. America will do better if it empowers its citizens, particularly the minorities who have not been given the full opportunities they deserve in education. It boils down to giving great private research universities like MIT, Stanford, and Harvard more financial support to remain in the forefront of education and research while also increasing the number of minorities trained in science and engineering. Imagine what the American sports world or music industry would be like today without African-Americans. There is no doubt that if we give the best opportunities to disadvantaged kids, a new dynamism will arise in America's halls of academe.

At the same time, genuine interest in science and math can only be possible if pre-university schools are better equipped by giving students the training they require. That also will mean mass investment by giving more incentives to math and science teachers. American dollars will be better spent in preparing future leaders than in building military power, which is becoming obsolete as most countries now discover the battle of this century will no longer be fought on the fields of war but in the trade and economic markets. America must face the new realities.

## Still have your wisdom teeth?



Write for **The Tech** Opinion Department.

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February 24,  
2004

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The  
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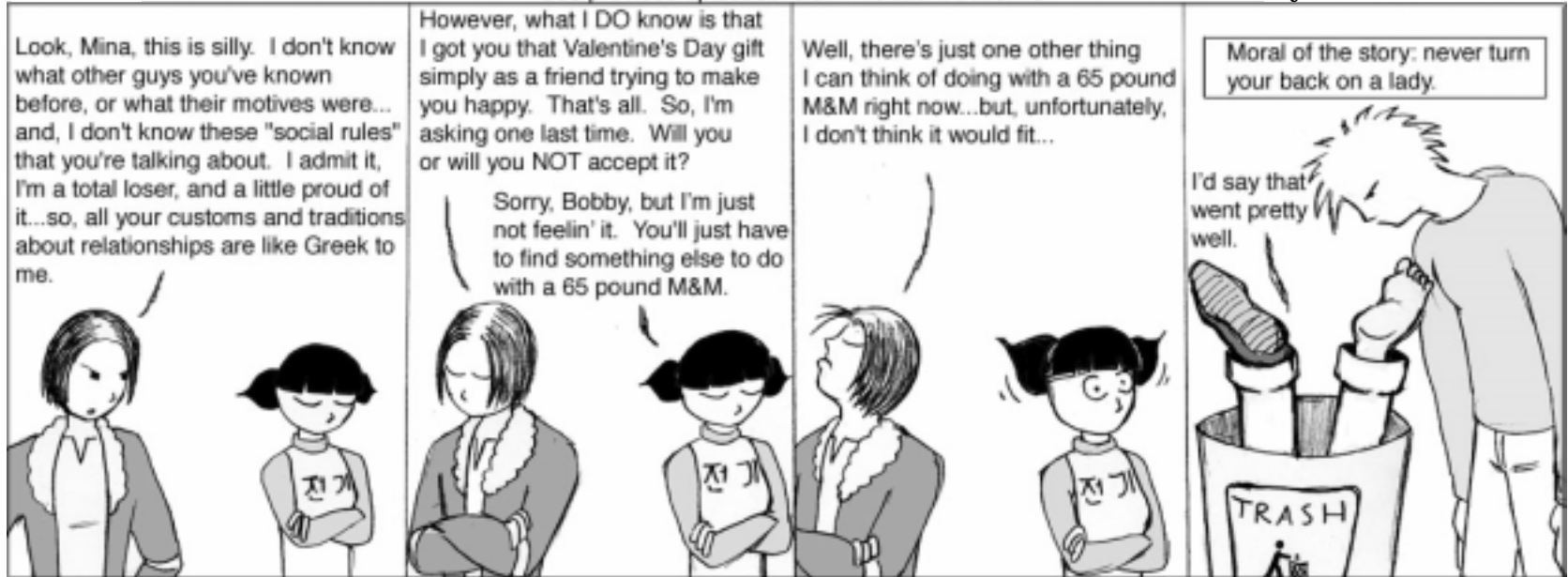
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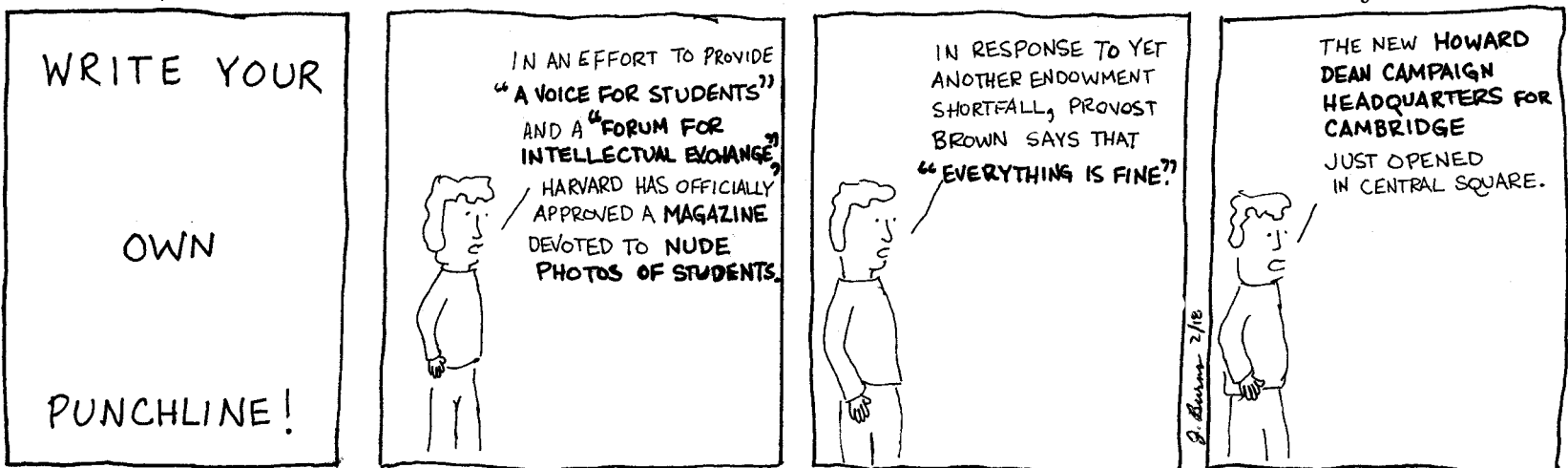
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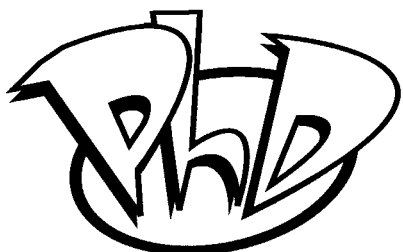
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by Jason Burns



## Monologues: The infinite well

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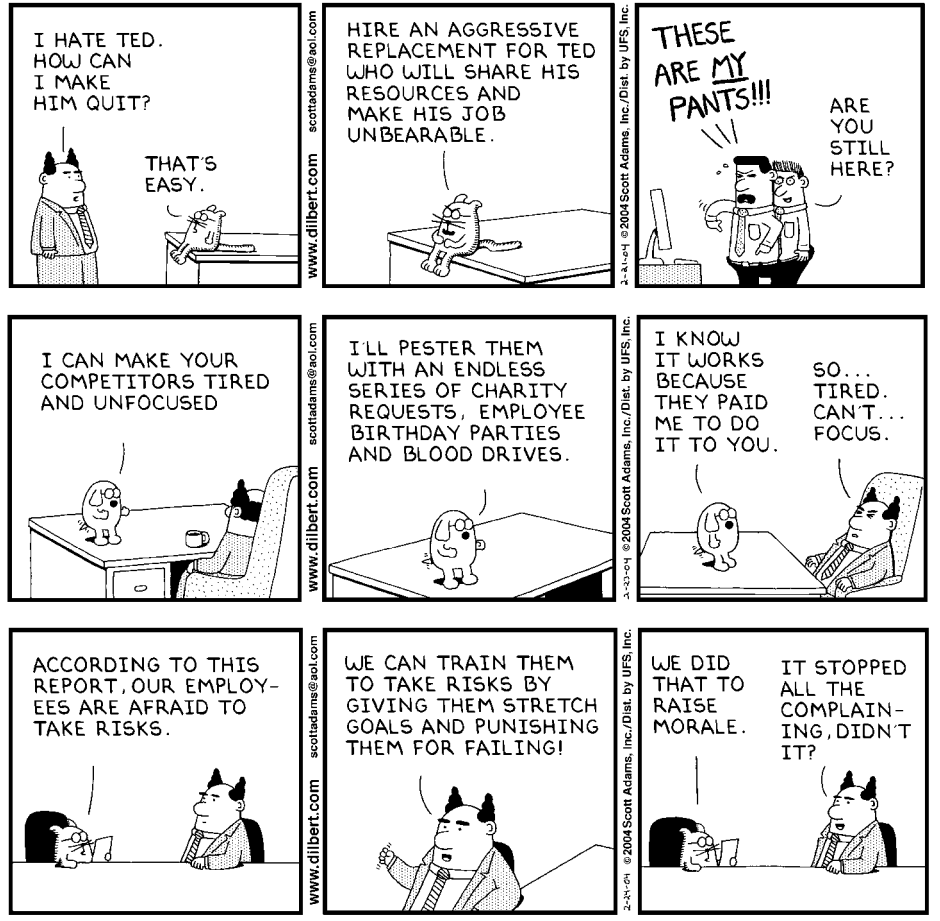


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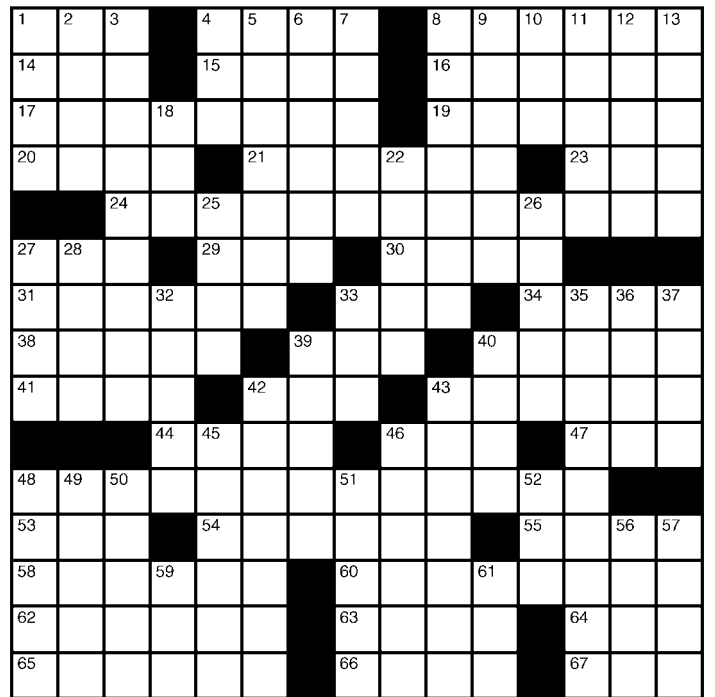
# Dilbert by Scott Adams



## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 17

- |                            |                           |                                 |                             |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS                     | 40 Strong winds           | 2 Johnson of "Laugh-In"         | 33 Quantity of moonshine    |
| 1 Possesses                | 41 Lead actor             | 3 Minute trace                  | 35 Thrill greatly           |
| 4 Lupino and Tarbell       | 42 Math subj.             | 4 Abdul Aziz __ Saud            | 36 Philosopher Descartes    |
| 8 Stick                    | 43 Native skill           | 5 Airplane safety machines      | 37 Analogy phrase           |
| 14 Circle section          | 44 1901                   | 6 Jughead's buddy               | 39 Radar signals            |
| 15 Ernie's Muppet buddy    | 46 Major ISP              | 7 Iron type                     | 40 Festive affair           |
| 16 Loan shark              | 47 Bus. bigwig            | 8 Monitor markers               | 42 Current measuring device |
| 17 Start of a quip         | 48 Part 4 of quip         | 9 Basketry willows              | 43 Large purse              |
| 19 Commuting               | 53 "Evil Woman" rock grp. | 10 Newman movie summary         | 45 Run rings around         |
| 20 Late-night Jay          | 54 Experience summary     | 11 "Fear of Flying" author Jong | 46 Chain mail in the U.K.   |
| 21 Gliding ballet movement | 55 River to the Caspian   | 12 Kidney enzyme                | 48 Wherewithal              |
| 23 AFL-__                  | 58 Feature                | 13 Grain rot                    | 49 Mary Kate and Ashley     |
| 24 Part 2 of quip          | 60 End of quip            | 18 Jack of "Barney Miller"      | 50 Beyond stringy           |
| 27 Friend in Marseilles    | 62 Sewing tool            | 22 Active pastime               | 51 One-up                   |
| 29 Afore                   | 63 Binary                 | 25 Cop's route                  | 52 Holy sister              |
| 30 Approximator's phrase   | 64 To's partner           | 26 Entire                       | 56 Land measure             |
| 31 Greek letters           | 65 Tom of talk shows      | 27 Rehan and Huxtable           | 57 Lions' names             |
| 33 PSAT takers             | 66 Assns.                 | 28 Run in the heat?             | 59 Byrnes or Hall           |
| 34 Garr of "Tootsie"       | 67 Sure thing!            | 32 The Velvet Fog               | 61 Urban RRs                |
| 38 Apportion               | DOWN                      |                                 |                             |
| 39 Part 3 of quip          | 1 Frozen drops            |                                 |                             |



## The Production Department's Word of the Day

**Yammer:** To complain peevishly or whimperingly; whine. To talk volubly and loudly. To utter or say in a complaining or clamorous way.

[join@tt.mit.edu](mailto:join@tt.mit.edu)



Join *The Tech*,  
before the man-eating  
pineapples come after you.

E-mail [join@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@the-tech.mit.edu)

# Events Calendar

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

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

## Tuesday, February 24

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - WHOI Donut and Coffee Hour.** Join your classmates for some post-bus, pre-class refreshments! Free. Room: WHOI Student Center. Sponsor: WHOI Student Organization.

**11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - MIT Faculty Club Open House.** We'll have plenty of food samples from our new menu, wine tasting & pairing recommendations from professionals, giveaways, including discounts on future events, various gift baskets, wine samples and more. Everyone is invited! The more the merrier! Please RSVP at [kusler@mit.edu](mailto:kusler@mit.edu). Room: E52, 6th Floor. Sponsor: MIT Faculty Club.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Technology Executives Lecture Series.** Office of Corporate Relations/ILP invites you to an industry presentation from the Head of Corporate Technology of Siemens AG. Free. Room: Tang Center, Wong Auditorium, Building E51. Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/ILP.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Technology Executives Lecture Series: Innovation Management at Siemens.** Professor Claus Weyrich, Head of Corporate Technology, Siemens AG, will lecture on Siemens' strategy for managing innovation. Siemens, the world's third largest player in electrical engineering and electronics has always been committed to R&D and innovation in the course of its long history. Free. Room: Tang Center, Wong Auditorium, E51. Sponsor: MIT Sloan Public Web Site.

**1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Asian American Association Bubble Tea Sale.** Buy Lollipup Bubble Tea to benefit an Asian American charity. \$2.50 for members; \$3 for non-members. Room: Student Center. Sponsor: UA Finance Board, Asian American Association. Lollipup TeaZone.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Restructuring Time: Implications of Work-Hour Reductions for the Working Class.** Free. Room: E51-390. Sponsor: MIT Workplace Center and the Institute for Work and Employment Research.

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Mean-Field and Anomalous Behavior on a Small-World Network.** Free. Room: Building 2-338. Sponsor: Physical Mathematics Seminar.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Networking 101.** Networking is one of the most important strategies for developing contacts throughout your career. Free. Room: 56-114. Sponsor: Career Services Office.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - MITea Time - Culture Exchange - English Chinese Class.** Our free English Class is good for newcomers to learn English in a very friendly environment. It is also good for people who have interest in learning the American culture. Free. Room: 36-156. Sponsor: Chinese Student and Scholar Association, Graduate Student Council. MIT CSSA & GSC.

**3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - MTL VLSI Seminar Series.** CMOS Device Scaling Strategy. Free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar.

**4:00 p.m. - Engineered Particulate Systems.** Free. Room: 1-350. Sponsor: Geomechanics and Geomaterials.

**4:00 p.m. - MIT Astrophysics Colloquium: Jacqueline Hewitt.** Cosmology with a Low-Frequency Radio Array. Free. Room: 37-252. Sponsor: Astrophysics.

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Genevieve McMillan-Reba Stewart Lecture on Women in the Developing World.** New Aesthetics of Performance: Africa, Education, and a Vision for the Future. A lecture and performance by WereWere Liking. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program.

**7:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. - Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study.** Currently studying Experiencing God. Free. Room: Eastgate. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

**8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - CCC Large Group.** Come to worship, learn something new about Christ, and catch up on the daily lives of each other. Free. Room: Student Center, PDR 1&2. Sponsor: Campus Crusade for Christ.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - Contra Dance for All with P.E. Credit.** Mardi-Gras Party. All dances taught; all skill levels welcome. Contra Dance is a traditional American form of folk dancing, directed by a caller and accompanied by exciting live music. MIT students free, other students \$3, non-students \$5. Room: Walker Memorial; Morss Dining Hall. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club. Music for Robin.

**8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - MIT Debate Team Meeting.** MIT Debate Team Meeting. Free. Room: W20-423. Sponsor: MIT Debate Team.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - MIT Concert Band Rehearsal.** The Concert Band, a student-run performance group, rehearses twice per week. We welcome students of all levels of musical experience. Free. Room: W20-3rd Floor, 20 Chimneys. Sponsor: Association of Student Activities, Concert Band.

**9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - LIVEmusic@theEAR: Nikulydin.** Free. Room: The Thirsty Ear Pub. Sponsor: The Thirsty Ear Pub.

**9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - International Food Night - Pancake Day.** Celebrate different cultures through food! British Pancake day. Free. Room: Tang Hall, 24th Floor Lounge. Sponsor: Tang Hall Residents Association, GSC Funding Board.

**All day - 2004 Awards Convocation Nominations Open.** 2004 Awards Convocation Nominations are Open. Go to <http://web.mit.edu/awards> for information. Deadline for nominations is Friday, Mar. 19th. Contact Fran Miles at OR CALL 3-4051 with questions. Free. Sponsor: Awards Convocation.

## Wednesday, February 25

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Web Accessibility and Universal Design.** Learn about MIT's Web Accessibility Policy and Guidelines for insuring accessibility to online information and services for people with disabilities. This session will show examples of accessible and inaccessible Web design, and cover HTML coding techniques and tools that can

help make your site ADA-compliant. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Realism Canadian Style: The Chretien Legacy in National Security Policy and the Lessons for Canada-US Relations.** Brown bag lunch. Free. Room: e38-615. Sponsor: Security Studies Program.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Nanotechnology: Enabling Efficient Direct Energy Conversion.** Nanotechnology represents a "small" world, while energy systems are big. How nanotechnology may impact energy conversion? Free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, Energy at MIT.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - The Complex Genetics of Brain.** Significant variation in brain structure among normal humans is matched by significant variation among normal strains of mice. Free. Room: MGH, East CNY. Building 149, 2nd Floor Conference Room. Sponsor: HST. Athinoula A. Martinos Center.

**12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Mid-Day Prayer.** Brief service of prayer in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. All are welcome. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

**12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Chatter by the Charles Toastmasters Meeting.** At Toastmasters, we improve our communication and leadership skills through prepared and impromptu speaking opportunities. Gain confidence as a public speaker and have fun at the same time! Guests are always welcome at Chatter by the Charles meetings. Free. Room: E19-429. Sponsor: Toastmasters, MIT Organization and

Employee Development, Human Resources, Training at MIT.

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - PSFC Seminar.** The Mast Experiments. Free. Room: NW17-218. Sponsor: Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - String/Gravity Seminar.** Matrix Models and Strings in D=4 Dimension. Free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Isshinryu Karate Workout.** Traditional Okinawan Karate in a Small Club Environment. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage Half-Court. Sponsor: Isshinryu Karate-do at MIT.

**3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Joint Theoretical Chemistry Lecture Series, Professor Benjamin Widom, Cornell.** Role of homologous and nonhomologous recombination pathways in the repair of camptothecin damage in budding yeast. Free. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Black Theatre Guild.

**6:03 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Weekly meetings.** Regular meeting of the core group at muddy charles. Free. Room: Muddy Charles. Sponsor: Techlink.

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Glimpses of Ch'an: Listening to the Sound of Silence.** Meditation and Talk on Buddhism by Dharma Master

Hsin Tao, Founder of the Wu sheng Monastery and Museum of World Religions in Taiwan. Free. Room: The Wong Auditorium, Tang Center. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study.** Come join us for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship! We are currently studying the book of Ephesians. Free. Room: NW86-560. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - MOST's Patron Saint Celebration.** Free. Room: Eastgate Penthouse. Sponsor: MIT Organization of Serbian Students (MOST), GSC Funding Board.

**7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Chess Club Meeting.** A prominent player of the club will talk about some ideas in the opening. Then it will be designated time for play! Free. Room: Student Center, PDR 1&2.

Sponsor: Chess Club.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - MIT Concert Band Rehearsal.** The Concert Band, a student-run performance group, rehearses twice per week. We welcome students of all levels of musical experience. Free. Room: W20-3rd Floor, 20 Chimneys. Sponsor: Association of Student Activities, Concert Band.

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## Thursday, February 26

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - WHOI Donut and Coffee Hour.** Free. Room: WHOI Student Center. Sponsor: WHOI Student Organization.

**12:00 p.m. - MIT Chapel Concert. Lute songs and solos of the English renaissance.** Performed by Rich Maloney, lute; Maria Georgakarakou, soprano. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - English Bible Class.** You are welcome to attend this free Bible class led by Barbara Beevers of Baptist Campus Ministry. International spouses are welcome especially, but open to all. Come practice English, ask questions and make friends. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Yoga for Positive Body Image.** This workshop will combine yoga, breathing, and meditation practices to cultivate positive body image and self-care. Wear comfortable clothes (exercise clothes not necessary). Beginners welcome. This session is part of MIT activities to raise awareness for National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, February 22-29. Free. Room: E23-297. Sponsor: MIT Medical.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Excel Quick Start.** This course presents an overview of Excel's basic functions, as well as some of its more powerful features and capabilities. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Free Conversational English Class.** Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Workshop on Gender and Politics.** Hawley Fogg-Davis will present a paper titled, "The Allure of a Black Conservative Disposition." Organized by Prof. Sarah Song, Assistant Professor of Political Science at MIT. Free. Room: E51-275. Sponsor: Political Science Dept, Women's Studies Program.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Hydrology Seminar.** Global soil moisture data assimilation with a distributed Ensemble Kalman filter. Free. Room: NE20-285. Sponsor: Parsons Lab (general).

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Complex System Design Seminar.** Human Factors and Ergonomics Society presents two new Aero/Astro faculty, Prof. Roy and Prof. Cummings, who will discuss their research and how it relates to complex systems and human factors. Free. Room: 33-206. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, MIT Student Chapter.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Physics Colloquium Series: "Teaching Feynman's Tools: The Dispersion of Feynman Diagrams in Postwar Physics."** The Physics Community is invited to a pre-lecture reception at 3:45 p.m. in room 4-339. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Procuring Fast Delivery, Part II: Sole Sourcing with Information Asymmetry.** ORC Spring Seminar Series. Seminar reception immediately following in the Philip M. Morse Reading Room, E40-106. Free. Room: E40-298. Sponsor: Operations Research Center.

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Weekly Grad Student Bible Study for Absolute Beginners.** Weekly informal Bible study for grad students; refreshments provided; LGBT welcome. Free. Room: W11-007. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

**6:00 p.m. - Living History Museum.** This year's theme—artists and activists—includes portrayals of Phyllis Wheatley, Thurgood Marshall, Ida B. Wells, Harriet Tubman, Ralph Ellison, Rebecca J. Cole, Augusta Savage, and political events including the Dred Scott decision and the horror of the Middle Passage. Musical accompaniment by composer Akili Jamal Haynes. Free. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Black Theatre Guild.

**6:03 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Weekly meetings.** Free. Room: Muddy Charles. Sponsor: Techlink.

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## ARTS

## THEATRE REVIEW

**Climactic 'Monologues' Shine Once Again****'Vagina Monologues' Raises Money to End Violence Against Women**

By Ann Cowan

*The Vagina Monologues*  
10-250

February 19, 20, 21, 8 p.m.

Written by Eve Ensler

Directed by Usman Akeju '05, Betsy Eames '06, Richa Maheshwari '05, Alessandra Sabelli '03

**V**agina Monologues": a light-hearted celebration and exploration of female sexuality — its actualities, uncertainties, joys, vulnerabilities, and pains. Using the stories of some 200 women from around the world, the series of monologues creates a biography of women's sexual development, awareness, pleasures, and some of the dangers it confronts. The initial shock of hearing explicit talk soon wears off as we become enveloped by a sense of recognition of what we always knew. The drama becomes both hilarious and deeply moving.

But of course, I must say this is how it was for me, a female. I'm sure males in the audience learn a great deal too: about how

women feel, react, may be moved, and harmed. It's hard for me to say how they see this play. Perhaps it is more shocking or revelatory than it is for women. An opportunity for male response at the end would be necessary and possibly interesting. In any case, the "Vagina Monologues" is certainly informative and motivating for those of either gender.

The 34 actresses in this play, which sold 1,050 tickets over the course of three nights, put themselves into the roles of the authors to varying degrees. Some seemed to fully identify and express both their own and their character's emotions fully and convincingly; others used some expression to convey only the writer's feelings. Some, reading lines with modest expression, were less convincing, though still informative. On the whole, the performance seemed to build gradually to a crescendo of emotive expression, especially to the climax at the end when the myriad of moan-types were demonstrated by several performers.

The play, made up of some 32 segments,

begins with an "Introduction to the Vagina Monologues," moving on to talk about "Hair," and then continues with a narration of an older woman's dreams of "The Flood" that took place "down there." Then there's "The Vagina Workshop" and its perils and pleasures and a great dramatic performance of "My Angry Vagina," by Heather Fry.

In the second half, the fascinating segment "The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could" was performed by Rydia Vielehr '04, followed by an outrageous performance of "Reclaiming Cunt" by Ashley Robinson '05. This all led to a climax with "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," generously performed by Adriana Rodriguez '04. The costumes throughout the monologues were variations of red and black, consistent with the Valentine theme and its darker side.

"The Vagina Monologues" is a low cost production, designed to be performed by volunteers around the world. It aims to end the silence about the central facts of women's lives and thus protect them from some of the

violence done to them. It tries to do this by increasing their confidence and by raising money to open or reopen clinics, schools, shelters and similar efforts.

This production of the monologues is an amazing show of force for MIT. It has been performed at MIT for three years and this year earned over \$11,000. All this goes to charities which work to end violence against women, from rape and domestic violence to genital mutilation and sexual slavery.

Eve Ensler's play has inspired a new global grassroots movement, supported by students, to fight violence against women by licensing over 2,000 volunteer-staffed performances of her play at colleges and around the world. It has earned some \$20 million in six years. When it was incorporated three years ago, it was hailed by "Newsweek" and other major magazines as one of the best charities.

People interested in these causes can become "Vagina Warriors" and watch for upcoming events and activities via MIT's V-day site (<http://V-day.mit.edu>) or the national V-day site (<http://www.vday.org/splash2004>).



"My vagina's angry. It is. It's pissed off. My vagina's furious and it needs to talk." Heather M. Fry performs "My Angry Vagina," a tirade against modern day injustices towards the vagina, like tampons and pelvic exams.

PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

# What a Difference a Year Makes

## An Account of One Woman's Rape and Assault at MIT

By Anonymous

What a difference a year makes," some say. I'm not so sure. There aren't a lot of differences between me today and me a year ago. I'm still trying to make sense of my life and what has happened to me. Today, I'm resisting the temptation to withdraw from everything as I did a year ago. Instead, I'm staying entirely too busy with other things in order to keep my mind from wandering. And although perhaps outwardly I haven't changed so much, inside I feel more detached from my friends. I'm having intense problems trying to relate to others around me.

"But, you've been through so much in your life," they say. Well, sure, I can rattle off countless times when my world has fallen apart, or I've been the unlucky participant in some terrible occurrence. And yet, I always seem to get through it. Some say these types of situations make you a stronger person. If they are right, I just may be the strongest woman in the world. In reality, the facade that surrounds me has just gotten that much more convincing.

This anniversary marks something altogether different. Anyone can sympathize with family problems, or a relationship gone sour. These things are understandable, not your fault, and don't say anything about you as a person. But rape is different. It changes the way people view you, alters their interpretation of your life. You stop being invited to things, forgotten on spontaneous trips to dinner, left out of conversation. Even if someone doesn't know the truth, it is clear that something about you has changed; the facade has cracked, and your deeper secrets influence every contact you have with another person. It's hard to know how to act around someone who knows about what has happened to me. I doubly analyze their actions and conversations, wondering how their knowing has changed our relationship. I wonder what they think about, what they expect me to do, and what they want me to say.

Even the most sensitive person views rape as something that can be controlled or avoided. Perhaps I shouldn't have gone into the office on a Sunday morning, when no one else was around. Or maybe I should have noticed the light was on and not gone into the room. Maybe even more self-defense training or mental strength would have allowed me to get free. These issues race through the minds of anyone who knows; you can tell by their questions and actions. I don't blame them for thinking or saying the wrong thing, for pulling away, for letting me push them away farther. Almost everyone is ill-equipped to handle the consequences of a rape.

One year ago, I went to work in the morning, just to make a few copies and prepare some papers for an upcoming meeting. The door to the building is locked off-hours, but I had card access. I swiped my ID and waited for the door to shut behind me, knowing that there had been recent problems with theft in the

building. I unlocked the office door, made the copies, and, since there were fewer distractions, decided to do some other school work. I had been working a while, maybe an hour or so, when I became aware of the sound of breathing behind me. A man was standing there, watching me type on the laptop. He had been there for quite some time. For the most part, he looked pretty ordinary — not at all bad looking, though a little scruffy from not shaving that morning. He was wearing jeans and a blue sweater. I didn't have time to fully turn around before my vision grew fuzzy. His hands were around my neck, squeezing and twisting. I remember thinking that his hands were really large as I went into automatic defense mode to get out of his hold. I whirled around to face him, and to leave the room, only to see another

man closing the door behind him. He was holding a Leatherman with the knife extended by his side. He walked up to me, teasing me, and casting flirtatious

glances up and down my body. Tracing my contours with the blade, he cut open my shirt, exposing the fact that I had not worn a bra that day. "What a whore," he said to his friend. "She was waiting for us."

I prayed for numbness, a coping mechanism that had worked for me so well in the past; but I was rewarded only with hyperawareness and sensitivity to the reality of my situation. Little lines of red grew across my chest as the second man grew impatient and careless with the blade, using his free hand to unbutton his pants. His friend, already partially undressed, thrust me against a table, ripped my pants down, and pushed into me. Both men were quiet. The only sounds in the room were of tearing flesh, and my head hitting the wall with each pounding motion. He stopped suddenly, as if aware of a noise in the hallway. Growling at me to be quiet, the second man grabbed my wrists and flung me to the ground. He took his turn, first with the knife, "to get me all lubed up," and then with his penis. He was rougher, more abrasive than his friend, gripping my arms with a strength that left hand marks across my biceps. His friend stood over me, grinning sadistically for several minutes, before deciding to kneel over me, thrusting his penis into my mouth. He covered my head with his body, not seeming to notice my choking, my struggle for breath, or even the vomit that gurgled out of my throat.

I don't know how long they were there with me, exploring every permutation of sexual position and domination. Occasionally, they would pull away, aware that there could be others in the building. Eventually, they slowly faded from view. The numbness that I had prayed for earlier finally overtook my senses. I rolled to my side, vomited, and looked at the clock. It had been three and a half hours since I stopped typing on the laptop. I barely had time to stagger up when I heard a voice call out, asking for anyone there to respond. I sunk down in a chair as a different man, a policeman, pushed

the door open. Evidently, the sight of two men leaving the building, carrying loaded packs, with stained clothing, one nursing a bloody nose (I had apparently broken it during some struggle) arose suspicion, and a police detail was sent to investigate.

The next hours were a blur of doctors and nurses, carefully treating my physical wounds and explaining procedures to me. I honestly don't remember much besides getting sick, and not keeping down any medication given to me orally. I was driven home with pamphlets, numbers to call, and options to explore.

I went into work the next day. I felt I had to go because otherwise I would have to explain to my supervisors why I wasn't at work. Thankfully, it was February, so I wore a big turtleneck sweater that hid the marks and the swelling. I wasn't planning on staying long; I would leave after discussing the data analysis I had done the week before. It really surprised me how easy it was to go back into that room the next day. I noticed the slight stain in the carpet, but marveled at how well the janitorial staff cleaned up the mess. Everyone was talking about the events of the day before; how the people stealing computers finally got caught after some kind of scuffle and everyone wondered who turned them in. I even participated in those conversations, wondering with them what had happened.

For the next number of weeks, my life more or less consisted of sleeping and doing the bare minimum to keep up appearances. I told everyone I was sick as an excuse to stop interacting with them. Six weeks later, when I noticed that I hadn't gotten my period, I finally woke up to reality. It seems that since I couldn't keep down the emergency "morning after" contraception, I was pregnant. I had also contracted syphilis, which was resistant to the antibiotic they gave me in the ER.

After the abortion, which may have been the wake-up call I needed, I started to take better care of myself and tried to stop failing my classes. Despite all the help I received, it was 11 months before I told anyone, besides my boyfriend and various medical personnel, what had happened to me. I still haven't really talked to anyone that I told in December. It's strange knowing other people know your secrets, that you have nothing to hide, and are completely vulnerable. I don't always know what to say to the people who know. I know they have ques-

tions, concerns, things that they want to say to me, but don't know how to bring it up, or how to say it.

I got almost all of my medical and emotional care after my rape outside MIT. I needed to be cared for more anonymously, especially since I know some of the medical staff here. Although my initial contact with the MIT people who found me after the attack was exactly what I needed and more, I wasn't always taken seriously or treated with enough sensitivity by people at MIT. Many organizations in Boston and Cambridge are, in my opinion, more capable of dealing with such a trauma. Sometimes I wish I could have worked more with MIT people, if only to combat the belief that rape doesn't happen here. From talking to others who have had similar experiences, it's clear that a general lack of awareness exists on this issue.

It is difficult to really raise awareness, because, despite the statistics, no one thinks that it will happen to them. Information passed out during Orientation is quickly forgotten. And even the people who should be the most sensitive to this issue often have trouble relating to a sexual assault victim. In my case, it seemed that being raped was secondary to catching the men responsible for computer theft.

And so here I am, one year later. I'm certainly not over it, but I've learned to accept this part of my past. I'm sure I'll be working out various personal "issues" relating to my experience for many years to come, but today, I'm relatively happy. I'm in a healthy sexual relationship, back on track in my classes, and participating in activities again. I still go into work several times a week without thinking of last year's events.

Now I can begin sharing my story, letting others know what it means to be raped, and that sexual assault does happen at MIT. I realize that my case is somewhat different than most; I did not know the men who attacked me, nor did the attack occur in a dorm or FSILG. Despite these differences, I feel that my story needs to get out, to help educate and to remind people of the resources available if this should ever happen to you or someone you know. But most importantly, I want to tell those who share similar experiences here: you are not alone.

*This account is anonymous to protect the identity of the author.*

*Even the most sensitive person views rape as something that can be controlled or avoided.*

### Resources for Victims of Sexual Assault

#### Campus Police

100 or 617-253-1212

To report a sexual assault (anonymously or not), or to get support and transport immediately following a rape or sexual assault

#### MIT Medical Mental Health Service

617-253-2916

Counselors are on-call 24 hours a day

#### Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

617-492-RAPE

24-hour hotline

#### Fenway Community Health Violence Recovery Program

617-927-6250 or 1-800-834-3242

Services for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered sexual assault survivors.

## MIT's Production of The Vagina Monologues



"15 years old. My mother said, 'Mazel-tov.' She slapped me in the face. Didn't know if it was a good thing or a bad thing." Christina C. Chestnut '06 (along with Johanna E. Gaiottino '06 and Ming-Fai Fong '05) reads "When I Was 12, My Mother Slapped Me," a conversation about women's reactions to their first periods.



"I've lost my clitoris! I shouldn't have worn it swimming!" Jocelyn K. D'Arcy '05 performs "The Vagina Workshop" during the final rehearsal of The Vagina Monologues last Wednesday.

## SUGAR AND SPICE

# Mock Apple Pies: Puttin' on the Ritz

## An Apple Pie With No Apples? Absurd!

By Marissa Cheng  
STAFF WRITER

Sometime during the night, some sneaky person ate the last of the mock apple pie. The pie was part of an experiment I was conducting this past weekend. Mock apple pie is a regular pie-

type deal, except that its interior consists of crumbled Ritz crackers soaked with a syrup made of sugar, water, lemon juice, lemon zest, and cinnamon. In the 1930s, it was a cheap substitute for real apple pie. Today, it's more about the idea that it's the pie spices that people identify with apple pie, not the

taste of the actual apples.

Despite all protests from my friends, I devised my experiment. While teaching a cooking class this IAP, I came across Jeffrey Steingarten's recipe for apple pie, which contained no spices, but added vanilla, in an attempt to return apple pie to the apples. I thus decided to make three pies: the mock apple pie, the spiceless pie, and a regular apple pie. The pie crust was the same for all three pies, and, as a side note, was absolutely beautiful to behold.

The three pies took the better part of the day to prepare, assemble, and bake. Taste testing began in the late evening, by various friends responding to the general offer of free freshly-baked pie. While most people agreed that the mock apple pie didn't particularly taste like apple pie, they also either hated it or loved it. I liked the mock apple pie. It was a little sweet, and I think I may have used far too much lemon zest (one friend commented that it tasted like lemon pie), but the saltiness of the Ritz crackers was nice with the sugar syrup. You could taste the Ritz crackers, but not feel them in your mouth — the sugar syrup completely transformed the crackers.

On the matter of the spiceless apple pie, I think I may have liked the mock apple pie more than this one. The taste of the apples was very nice; the pie smelled like fresh cider while baking in the oven. However, the vanilla didn't go so well with the apples. Save the vanilla for the ice cream on the side. And the normal apple pie was, well, normal.

My verdict: I hate to say it, but I might make the mock apple pie again. It's not something that I'll automatically reach for, nor is it an even vaguely suitable substitute for real apple pie, but it's quick to make, tastes pretty good, and is certainly a conversation starter.

Finally, here are a few pointers for when you make your first apple pie (see accompanying recipes). First, taste the sugar syrup. If you don't want to eat the sugar syrup, you won't want to eat the pie. If your pie is too sweet, add some vanilla ice cream and suddenly it'll get a lot better. Lastly, shape the Ritz crackers into something that looks like the top of an apple pie — an apple pie with a completely flat top looks suspiciously fake.

### Pie Crust

(makes enough for a 9-inch double-crust pie)

2 1/2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 Tbsp. sugar  
20 Tbsp. butter  
6-8 Tbsp. cold water



Mix together dry ingredients in a bowl. Cut half of the butter into small pieces, and mix into the dry ingredients with your fingers. Mix until the butter is completely blended with the dry ingredients and the mixture looks like slightly coarse, pale, yellow flour.

Cut the remaining butter into the mixture. Mix until the largest pieces of butter are pea-sized. Sprinkle six Tbsp. of water over the mixture. Stir together, and see if it clumps. If there are a lot of crumbs of pie dough on the bottom, add water by teaspoons, stirring and checking for crumbs after each addition. Divide into two, press dough into disks, wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Some background: the first half of the butter goes in to coat the grains of flour, insulating the flour against developing a lot of gluten. The second half of butter goes in to create the flakiness; that's why it's not mixed in as well as the first half. One last word: it's just as bad to add too little water, rather than too much. If you add too little, your finished pie dough will crumble when you try to roll it out. If you add too much, it'll be tough, but it will at least be workable.

### Mock Apple Pie

72-90 Ritz crackers, crumbled coarsely  
1 3/4 cups water  
2 cups sugar  
2 tsp cream of tartar  
2 Tbsp lemon juice  
Zest of 1 lemon  
2 Tbsp butter  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
2 9-inch pie crusts



Preheat oven to 425°F. Roll out the bottom crust and place in 9-inch pie plate. Mound cracker crumbs in the crust.

Bring water, sugar, and cream of tartar to a boil in a saucepan, over medium heat. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add lemon juice, lemon zest, and cinnamon. Remove from heat, and cool.

Pour syrup over cracker crumbs. Dot with butter. Roll out top crust, and place on top of filling. Crimp edges, and cut a few slits in the top crust to allow steam to escape.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until crust is golden. Serves ten.

## INTERVIEW

# Quit Your Life and Be a Rock Star

## An Interview with Simple Plan and MXPX

By Xian Ke

Ever wonder what your life would have been like had you decided to join that rock band instead of coming to MIT? Or daydream about what a rock star's life is like, while you are sitting in that Athena cluster trying to finish that 11th hour assignment?

We took advantage of the jaunt into Boston as part of their sold-out tour by pop-punk bands Simple Plan and MxPx to speak to group members about their chosen career path and life on the road. Sure, there are the perks of being a rock star. Fans that memorize your songs and faithfully chant every lyric. Travels around the world with fellow bandmates who also happen to be your best friends. Reporters who want to put your pictures and quotes in newspapers and magazines.

But the motto of "sex, drugs, and rock and roll" differs dramatically from the realities of rock stardom. Yuri Ruley, 27, became the drummer for MxPx when the group started in high school and has been on and off the road since he was 15. Since their tours generally involve a show in a different city every night, there is little free time for exploring new places after waking up in the early afternoon on the tour bus, performing sound checks at the venue, and taking an occasional shower at a nearby hotel.

"The schedule is consistently inconsistent," says Ruley, who explained that the band's practice of checking into a shower-accessible hotel every four days was a means of conserving funds. Sebastien Lefebvre, 22,

guitarist and backup vocalist for Simple Plan, confirms the hectic schedule on the road. "Oh, I shower though," defended Lefebvre. "It's just the other guys who only use the nice showers in the hotels."

We caught up with Lefebvre as he and his bandmates were preparing to travel to Singapore for the MTV Asia Awards. Although Simple Plan did not end up winning the award for Best Pop Act, they decided that the chance to perform at the awards would be worth the inconveniences to their tour schedule. Lefebvre expressed his bewilderment at Simple Plan's growing international popularity. "Japan is crazy ... they all sing along even though they don't know the language," said Lefebvre, a Montreal native who himself had to learn English after joining the band. It was at a Japanese concert that the audience first started brandishing their cell phones during the ballad "Perfect." The band thought it looked so cool that they now tell their U.S. audiences to follow suit.

But just because you have sold millions of albums worldwide does not necessarily mean you get an army of assistants to cater to your every need. There is only one tour manager who handles day-to-day scheduling and accounting for each band. When asked about perks that they can now enjoy from Simple Plan's success, Lefebvre revealed that the rider, a document that specifies a band's requirements on the road, has remained the same since they first began touring. "Actually, we'll wonder every now and then why we didn't change our rider to give us fruit backstage. We still have to find and buy our own. But then we forget to

change it," lamented Lefebvre as he waited for his laundry cycle to complete.

Compared to Simple Plan, MxPx has less of an international following. "I enjoy sometimes looking at the SoundScan numbers," Ruley said, referring to the industry source for album sales figures. "It's funny to see that you sold two albums in India last month, or one in China. It's like, how are these people hearing about us?" However, MxPx's longevity has gained them respect among both fans and fellow musicians. Ruley recounted how weird it was to have members of tour opener Sugarcult recently ask for his autograph, citing MxPx as a major influence in their musical development.

Asked about being idolized by some fans, Lefebvre answered that if they were, they would in fact be "anti-role models," since the band's philosophy is to be who you are and not look up to anything or anybody. Ruley expressed a similar individualistic attitude to MxPx's music direction. "We don't want to categorize ourselves because we don't want to limit the kind of music we make," he said.

In the end, fame and fortune pale in comparison to the high the bands get from performing live. "I don't want to make it sound bad, but being a rock musician is just our job," explained Ruley. "But we can see ourselves touring for ten more years." Lefebvre expressed amazement that he has already been at his job for five years. "After five days home, I'm just like, 'Hey, when are we going on tour again?'" he said. It is a motto that rings true for rock stars and average Joes alike: time goes by fast when you are having fun.

# Random Acts of Kindness Are Good



# FEATURES

## Deep Conversations Chancellor Clay - Straight From the Hip

By Zachary A. Ozer

*The Tech:* So your job is, well, you're the chancellor. Why do we need a chancellor when we've got a president? What's the difference between the two and also are you the real royalty, or a usurper of the throne?

*Chancellor Phillip L. Clay:* The chancellor is a title mostly associated with European universities where the chancellor is the royal patron of the university. Prince Charles is the chancellor of Oxford for example. Or is it Phillip? It's Phillip.

Anyways, they're all royal sponsors and the actual head of the university is the vice chancellor. Here in the U.S., the chancellor is used in a variety of ways from head of local versions of a state university to chair of the university board. In this case, the chancellor is the senior officer for education and student life. There's plenty of work in that area, given that MIT committed five years ago to make a number of improvements starting new initiatives and new programs in the area.

*TT:* So you are a professor of city planning, right?

*Clay:* That's correct.

*TT:* So I have a few questions about MIT's planning.

*Clay:* Now, the planning office is a different operation...

*TT:* This is just your personal view as a city planner. So, why are there more men's restrooms than women's restrooms on the first floor?

*Clay:* Well, if you think it's bad now, you should have been here 30 years ago when I came. I don't know how many women's restrooms there were, but I recall meeting lots of women asking where it was. We're much better off than we used to be.

*TT:* So moving along the topic of restrooms ... is it ever ok to use the bathroom and then not wash your hands afterwards?

*Clay:* Not washing you hands is a bad idea.

*TT:* Bad idea.

*Clay:* Because... lets just leave it at that.

*TT:* How do you respond when you see someone go to the restroom and then leave without washing their hands?

*Clay:* I take the view that we should work hard to take care of our own immune systems. We cannot control... we can't micromanage other people or the environment.

*TT:* Would you shake their hands?

*Clay:* Sure.

*TT:* Okay.

*Clay:* I've shaken lots of hands and I haven't thought about what they did the last ten minutes or two hours.

*TT:* So, since obviously you were a professor, do you find it to be more rude when someone sneezes during lecture and someone doesn't bless them or that in blessing them, you know, saying "bless you," that it is sort of interrupting the lecture?

*Clay:* That's a good question. My only experience in teaching is that, and I've taught mainly graduate courses which tend to be smaller, you should say "bless you" because the person who sneezes feels a little embarrassed that they've disrupted class... especially if it's a really loud sneeze. So to say "bless you" is a way of saying it's alright and move on.

*TT:* Alright. Very good.

*Clay:* Of course it'd be good of they cover their mouth. Then I'd say "bless you" with even more conviction.

*TT:* Ah, okay, conviction. So this is just my personal observation, I look at professors while they're giving lectures and I often notice that they don't have a ring on their ring finger. Is this a sign and should I transfer to another university as a result of this fact?

*Clay:* You mean you've seen lots of professors with no rings on their finger?

*TT:* Yeah. Unmarried professors.

*Clay:* I don't really have good data so I'm not going to pretend I do, but most of the faculty members I know are married. I think it's a matter of personal preference whether they wear a ring or not ... I wouldn't take observation as good data.

*TT:* Right, observation is bad data. Gotcha. Do you think they purposefully remove it at some point?

*Clay:* It's just personal preference.

*TT:* I was reading over your biography and I noticed that you went to UNC Chapel Hill. Are you a big football person?

*Clay:* Not really.

*TT:* Did you watch the Super Bowl?

*Clay:* Every minute. Sometimes out of one eye, but I tried to watch the whole game.

*TT:* Now were you watching it for the game or for the commercials?

*Clay:* For the game. I do pay attention to the commercials, but because they cost so much, they go by very fast. If I happen to be talking to someone or looking at something, I'm distracted. By the time someone says "Did you just see?" it's too late. I missed some of the commercials. I did see some I didn't like. I thought they were too demographically aggressive and going for the lowest denominator.

*TT:* What do you mean "demographically aggressive?"

*Clay:* They were created to appeal to particular interests of young men.

*TT:* Do you have a favorite type of commercial or did you have a favorite commercial this year?

*Clay:* I'm not sure about this year, but I like commercials that are clear and clever. For example, the current Toyota commercial I think basically tells you a little bit about Toyota and then says so buy it. So that company is clear about what they're good at and so confident that they're good that they don't need to say a lot of stuff, or do tricks, or explode bombs. They just say "ask somebody." Which is the way a lot of people make major purchases. They ask somebody.

*TT:* On that note, you were talking about the lowest common denominator, the younger male demographic, so then I'm guessing you didn't watch the Lingerie halftime special, with the women running around and playing football?

*Clay:* I actually find that totally uninteresting. In fact, I remember observing to someone that I hope the people who are there can get a better view than I can on my television, because it was incoherent as far as I could tell. Now, that might be my musical tastes, but if BB King had done a musical rendition of something, I would have been totally focused on it. Or if Luther had been there live and in person singing I would have focused on it, but whatever they had there I didn't connect with it. It wasn't just the taste in music; I just thought it was incoherent.

*TT:* So your musical preference then is like, Motown, sort of bluesy type stuff?

*Clay:* I like lots of instrumental stuff, but if there are words, I like to hear the words and I like the words to sometimes be lyrical, or have a good story or something like that. I don't ever expect to see my tastes reflected in the Super Bowl or the halftime show. I'm not in that demographic.

*TT:* Fair enough. So the other thing is I hear that what you do enjoy is gardening.

*Clay:* Yes.

*TT:* So, do you grow anything that you eat? Do you have an herb garden?

*Clay:* Yeah, I grow a few herbs, and I have grown tomatoes and other vegetables but I don't really have enough land to do that. You know, growing two squash... that's not enough. Couple of tomato plants, fine, because all you need are two, three tomato plants at a time.

*TT:* Are you a big believer in the five second rule? Do you know what the five second rule is?

*Clay:* Tell me what it is.

*TT:* You know, you're eating something and it kinda falls on the floor for a second, can you brush it off and eat it real quick or is that not?

*Clay:* (sighs) Depends on what it is and on what the floor's like.

*TT:* Do you if the floor is clean enough to eat off of then?

*Clay:* Sure.

*TT:* Would you do it in your house?

*Clay:* (reluctantly) Yeah.

*TT:* What about in your office? What if you like dropped something on the ground in here?

*Clay:* Depends on what it is. If it's just a crumb, no. On the other hand, if I had a muffin, and I'd taken a couple of bites out of it and I dropped the muffin on the floor, sure, I'd pick it up and eat it.

*TT:* Are a few germs really going to hurt you? You gotta build up your immune system.

*Clay:* I agree with that. Now, there are settings where I would not.

*TT:* Do you like pens or pencils?

*Clay:* I don't like pencils. In fact, I don't think I've written with a pencil in a couple of years. And I do like pens.

*TT:* Do you like a specific type of pen?

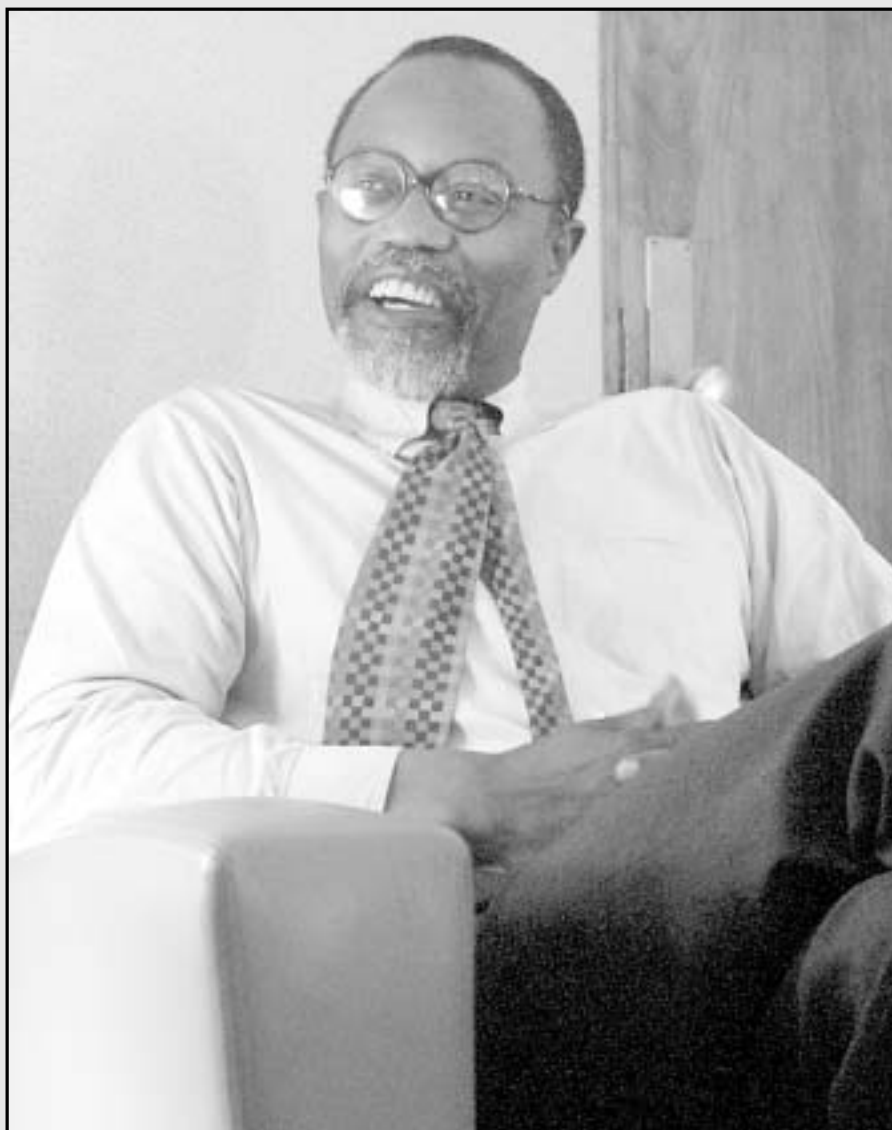
*Clay:* Roller ball or fountain pen. Ball points are boring.

*TT:* Do you like gel pens?

*Clay:* Yeah

*TT:* Colored pens?

*Clay:* I pay attention to pens that might explode. I try to avoid pens that might explode.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

*TT:* Just plain black or do you like the pinks, the greens?

*Clay:* No, no, no. Occasionally I buy one of those variety things, but it winds up that the purple one is sort of sitting on some counter at home. I wouldn't have it in my pocket.

*TT:* This is the big question. This has sparked debates for centuries. So the question is boxers, or briefs?

*Clay:* (Long, awkward pause) So I have to decide whether or not to answer the question.

*TT:* Fair enough. I mean, your answer could be the benefits vs. the downsides.

*Clay:* I think that's... (Long pause) Why is that a good question?

*TT:* Why is it a good question? It's just one of those questions that there are just pros and cons to both sides. Obviously, boxers provide more comfort, whereas briefs provide more support. So in certain situations one would be more appropriate than the other. Perhaps you want both, or perhaps neither. Boxer-briefs, you know, were possibly the greatest invention of our time.

*Clay:* Okay. Well I think it's a decision you sort of make on the spot. And the spot may be different on different days of the week, or different seasons of the year, or for different planned activities and so forth. I don't have a dogmatic preference.

*TT:* That's fine, obviously. Just looking for your insight. Finally, are you either a big Star Wars or Star Trek fan?

*Clay:* This probably is hard to say at MIT, but I tend to be fairly concrete so. I don't like any of it.

*TT:* Have you seen the films?

*Clay:* No, I haven't seen them, but I see whatever comes on the television, you know.

*TT:* TNT and such. Well in these, they have large, massive, you know, planet-size cities. How would one go about designing a planet sized city?

*Clay:* It's an interesting question for a city planner because I think that's completely uninteresting. We do planning on earth of cities and that's interesting. And every time I go someplace I'm very interested in how did this place get to be the way it is? Why are the streets in a certain pattern? Why is there a certain density? Why are buildings a certain way? Why do people live in a certain pattern? That's very interesting and I don't think I will ever learn all that I want to know about that, but the Star Wars, the fictitious, science fiction cities, absolutely no interest. I find it boring.

*TT:* Do you think a planet sized city is possible?

*Clay:* No. Well actually, I don't know. I don't know whether it's possible or not, but I don't find it very interesting to think about. We create colonies all the time, we create cities all the time and we make dramatic changes and reconstruct places all the time. And I'm excited about that.

*TT:* Thank you very much, sir, for everything.

*Clay:* Sure. Absolutely.

# Sex and the SafeRide

## Pain ≠ Pleasure In Bed

By Alex Nelson  
FEATURES COLUMNIST

A male friend recently asked me about spankings in the bedroom. Do I like them? Hmm, I had to think about that one. I don't beg for them, but I don't mind one every once in a while. So I responded, a spanking is alright as long as it doesn't hurt.

So what is it with spankings? Punishment or pleasure? It's all in the context, I guess. Of course, sexually, it's supposed to be a pleasurable action. But what makes spankings, which are used for chiding toddlers and corporal punishment, actually pleasurable in the bedroom?

Suddenly, I remembered man's obsession with the gluteus maximus. According to *Cosmopolitan* magazine, of all the features of a female body, the butt is one of man's greatest turn-ons. Men like something to hold onto and something to squeeze. Hey, they even smack

each other's asses on the playing field.

But with a woman, the butt is an extreme turn-off. In a longing embrace, somehow the male hand always wanders south for a lingering squeeze. Could he be any more obvious?

It's as if there is some magnetic force drawing his hand to your butt. The magnetic force, which varies with the inverse of  $r^2$ , is to a woman's advantage. We can use this force or increasing desire to tease and excite our men. Don't let him touch you, but instead give him exactly what he wants.

Men love lap dances! Rub yourself all over his body and he'll go crazy with desire. The power of the female sex is endless when it comes to playing with male hormones. This is probably one of the only ways in which women have it so damn easy. We are so damn sexy that we can turn on a man with little effort at all.

For women, however, our butts are some-

thing entirely different. It is something we think about as we devour a piece of chocolate cake or finish an Ankara's frozen yogurt. Feeling guilty later, we work-out on an elliptical or stair climber to get that butt back into shape.

Women realize that a nicely toned ass is a true asset to any female. In a tight pair of jeans or black pants, a nice ass can turn heads, especially the right ones. The "bend and snap" can work wonders by drawing attention and accentuating certain features. A subtle drop of the pencil can also be quite useful in desperate situations.

Additionally, the butt is an erogenous zone that should not be ignored in the bedroom. Special attention should be paid by gently massaging it during foreplay. As your arousal heightens, more forceful physical activity with the butt will add to the pleasure.

Here is where one may begin to consider spankings. In the most erotic moments of sex-

ual activity, things like spanking are acceptable. They seem appropriate with the mood or sexual atmosphere as well as the tone of the sexual activity (i.e. do not spank a girl while you are making out).

A spanking is best inserted at a time when the butt is easily accessible. Do not try to spank an ass that is unspankable (i.e. against a wall or the bed). Try a little squeeze to position your hand in the right place, then add a little spank. I would like to emphasize the word little. You do not want to turn off your partner or possibly inflict pain.

Through his or her reaction, you can tell whether or not he or she liked it. If this is not obvious, then *ask!* By varying the pressure and possibly spanking multiple times, you can see what your partner likes best. It is important through all sexual activity to always strive to find the most pleasurable actions for your partner. So go ahead, spank your date!

# Gourmet Geek

## Something Rotten in the State of Denmark

By Rose Grabowski

The dairy family of foods has managed to consume my thoughts for the last few weeks. It seems that my love of cheese and ice cream is relentless in hammering the point of their origins in my brain.

First was the column "Lactolicious," about the properties of milk and the product, Lactaid. Then, I received a message from a reader correcting me on some points. Glad to see that someone else was at least willing to engage in conversation about the exact properties of milk, it was kind of comforting to find fellow food nerds out there.

First, my statement that Lactaid is "milk minus the lactose" was not exact. Lactaid milk actually has lactase added to digest the lactose into glucose and galactose, making the drink more easily digestible.

Second, I inadvertently implied that Lactaid does not taste as good "as the alternative." Well, ten minutes ago, I took a trip down to the convenience store and purchased the said product. Now that I have the fresh taste of milk and lactase in my mouth, I can more faithfully describe the sensation.

Lactaid actually seems somewhat sweeter

than traditional milk ... quite a bit sweeter, in fact. Whodathunk? It also has an extremely faint, funny aftertaste, almost like a Vanilla SlimFast shake without the vanilla. But those are basically the only differences that I can detect.

However, after this experience, I would like to reassert my claim that Oreos may go better with normal milk, based on the likely-common preference for consuming slightly contrasting foods together.

So as I reached into my fridge to compare the Lactaid to the Hood, I unpleasantly recalled the typical plight of the hosed MIT undergrad.

This week, I have been too busy to consume a lot of the perishables in my food stock and the milk that I had bought two weeks ago has been sitting around a wee bit too long.

Today's American milk is almost always pasteurized and homogenized. Pasteurization is a process of heating milk to kill microbes and denature native enzymes which would break down milk fats and deteriorate the taste.

Homogenization is a pressure treatment that disperses fat globules evenly in milk so that cream doesn't rise to the top and sink thin watery materials to the bottom.

However, even with all that, it turns out that all milk, even the stuff you buy in nice white bottles at a high-end grocery market like LaVerde's or Star, has millions of bacteria in every half-gallon. If left to their own devices, those bacteria would digest a lot of the lactose surrounding them and release lactic acid as a by-product. Hence, the sour 2-week-old milk in my fridge.

Refrigeration obviously helps the problem in general, although the ideal temperature to prevent the bacteria from dominating your breakfast drink is just above freezing, a level not easily feasible by the typical college student (or non-professional chef, for that matter.)

To maximize the life expectancy of the dairy products in your cube fridge between trips to the Athena cluster, be sure to follow as many of these guidelines as possible:

**Pick milk that is freshest.** Take the 20 seconds it requires to check the date on the milk (you know it has an expiration date printed, right?) before you buy, and find the carton with the latest date.

**Don't drink out of the carton.** First of all, it looks gross. Girls don't go for slob. Second, there are just an ungodly number of bacteria around your mouth, whether you're a prude

or a ho.

By putting your mouth to the carton, you are exposing the milk to all of that bacteria which will digest the sugars and sour your milk many times faster than the native bacteria. And third, it's still gross.

**Keep your milk out of the light.** The energy in light oxidizes the fats and fragments the hydrocarbon chains. These rouge chains tend to be very volatile (read "smelly"). Indirect sunlight is plenty to cause this oxidation, but direct sunlight will also add "sunlight flavor," a burnt cabbage taste caused by a reaction between an amino acid, riboflavin, and methionine.

**Keep the milk as far into the back of your refrigerator as possible, as much as possible.** The more heat, and especially bursts of heat, the milk is exposed to, the faster it will sour. But "heat" does not mean "stove" — it means any temperature more than 39°F. The worst place of all to place your milk is on the door. Again, take the 20 seconds it requires to stick it in the fridge properly.

So what happens if your milk sours? Sometimes people think it'll get them other dairy products like cheese or yogurt. Not quite, but nice try. You just get sour milk.

## Call for Nominations!

# 2004 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER  
STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

LOUIS SUDLER  
PRIZE IN THE ARTS

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 award to the honoree.

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 19, 2004 to:  
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205  
cohen@media.mit.edu

# Class of 2006 Will Receive Rings at Top of the Hub

Brass Rat, from Page 1

new projects, including the new freshmen on campus policy, the sophomore exploratory option, and second term on grades. He holds a coffee cup, representing all-nighters, and a snow shovel, a constant reminder of last year's snow day.

The scholar holds in his pocket the 8.02T "personal response system" clicker, to remind us forever of the new interactive version of Physics II.

The MIT logo on the bottom also integrates a large "V," to commemorate the 13-year career and retirement of President Charles M. Vest this year. Next to the logo is a bunch of leaves, containing a musical note to represent the end of the Library Access to Music Project last fall.

### Stata Center all over ring

The Stata Center appears not once, not twice, but three times on the new Brass Rat.

The outline of the building has been added to the traditional Hacker's Map on the inside band of the ring. On the class shank, the jagged building peeks out from behind the Great Dome. Hidden in its angles are the letters "ILTFP."

Finally, the outline of Stata was added to the Cambridge skyline along the sides of the ring, contributing to the secret message effect.

### 2006 goes to Top of the Hub

The Class of 2006 will receive



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Members of the class of 2006 Ring Committee look on as their video presentation begins during the ring premiere Saturday night.



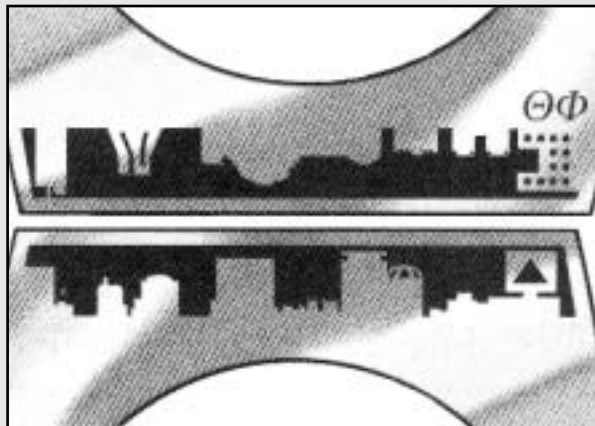
JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Tim the Beaver greets sophomores in the lobby of Walker Memorial before the ring premiere on Saturday night.

their new Brass Rats at the ring delivery on April 30 at the Top of the Hub in the Prudential Center.

Sophomores can order their rings for the next two weeks in Lobby 10.

## Class of 2006 Brass Rat Details



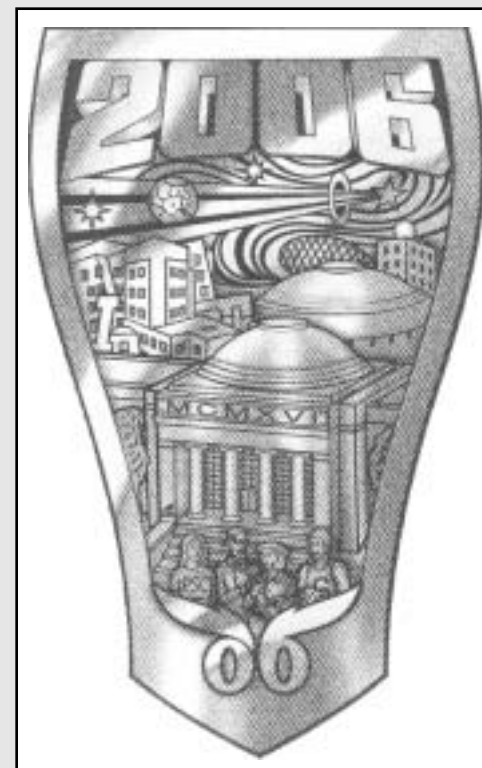
The Cambridge and Boston skylines, which can join to spell out "MIT."



The hacker's map.



The seal shank.



The class shank.

SOURCE—2006 RING COMMITTEE

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**Solution to Crossword**  
 from page 8

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | S | I | D | A | S | C | O | H | E | R | E |   |
| A | R | C | B | E | R | T | U | S | U | R | E | R |   |
| I | T | I | S | N | I | C | E | R | I | D | I | N | G |
| L | E | N | O | C | H | A | S | S | E | C | I | O |   |
| T | O | B | E | I | M | P | O | R | T | A | N | T |   |
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| D | E | L | T | A | S | J | R | S | T | E | R | I |   |
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| S | T | A | R | A | L | G | T | A | L | E | N | T |   |
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| S | N | Y | D | E | R | O | R | G | S | Y | E | S |   |

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**Information Session – Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:00 pm - Room 4-149  
**Campus Interviews – Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**MIT Department of FACILITIES**  
**CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

**Alumni Pool**  
 Full replacement of the south curtainwall is underway. Work will continue through late February/early March.

**Cambridgeport/West Campus**  
 Excavation and installation of a sewer and drain system along Sidney Street from Franklin to Erie Street will begin on February 25. This project will take approximately three weeks to complete. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Vehicular traffic along this portion of Sidney Street will be restricted to one lane of alternating traffic. Police detail will be on-site to direct traffic. Signs will be posted in areas where parking is restricted.

**Building 48**  
 The third and fourth floors have been prepared for use. Occupants are scheduled to move in sometime in mid-March.

For more information on MIT's building program, visit [web.mit.edu/evolving](http://web.mit.edu/evolving). This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

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25<sup>th</sup>

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## Store Changes Hours With Minimal Input

LaVerde's, from Page 1

make extended hours profitable.

### MIT plays small role in decision

Although the sign outside Laverde's store states that the extended hours will hold for the entire semester, MIT has only approved this idea for a month, according to Walsh.

McDonald said that the management of LaVerde's made this decision by themselves and there was not too much administration input.

"Today was the first day I have been here to talk to Frank [LaVerde]," Walsh said. The proclamation that the new hours will be in effect for the entire semester was not approved by MIT, and was possibly overenthusiastic, he said.

"It's not in MIT's best interest to have real estate partners that don't succeed," Walsh said. He said that MIT would like for LaVerde's to try the new hours for one month and then evaluate the feasibility after the trial

period.

"Hopefully, we'll be doing this forever," he said.

### Administration, students happy

"I think it's a great service," McDonald said. "This campus definitely does not go to sleep at night."

"This is the best news I have heard all weekend," said Michael Yu Yin Zhu '06.

Avonne S. Bell '05, said she thought it was great news since she spends a lot of time across the street in the Course XVI (Aeronautics and Astronautics) lab.

Jasper S. Lin '03, who claims he eats almost all his meals at LaVerde's, said he was very excited by the prospect.

At the same time, this news might not make much of a difference to students who commute to campus or live far away from the Student Center. "It doesn't really matter to me since I don't live on campus," said Kimberly M. Straub '06.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Comedy Central's Sherrod Small amuses the audience at the Comedy Collage last Saturday. The show, sponsored by Chocolate City and the Office of the Dean for Student Life, gathers a big crowd from MIT and many neighboring colleges every semester.

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# Female Jr. Faculty Drops In HASS Dept.

Harvard, from Page 1

Harvard because they are concerned about the chances of getting tenure, especially with children."

Officials caution that the overall number of junior faculty is too low to make sweeping conclusions. But William C. Kirby, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, was concerned enough to highlight the issue in his annual letter to professors last week, writing: "I intend to work intensively on this issue in the year ahead."

Though few other elite universities have comparable numbers available, there is some evidence that Harvard may not be unique in this regard. Even as it has hired more women overall, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has seen the number of nontenured women in its humanities and social sciences departments decline from 41 percent in 1983 to 23 percent last year. The proportion of women in the social sciences at the University of Pennsylvania has also dipped slightly since 1997.

Nancy Hopkins, a biologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who led an ambitious effort to document inequity in the presence of women scholars in the sciences at MIT, said the numbers could be the early signs of a backlash against universities' efforts to bring more women to the faculty. While Hopkins said there's not enough data to make assumptions, she wondered: "If the numbers of women get too high, is there a reaction that 'eek, this profession is getting feminized'?"

Harvard has been "nondistinguished" on the issue of women in academia, Hopkins said. "When you are the richest and most powerful, you have to be the leader, not the follower."

But Harvard officials insist they have been aggressive in seeking greater equality. Women are now nearly 20 percent of tenured professors in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and they are nearly 30 percent of tenured faculty in the humanities. In the sciences, the number of women junior professors has doubled in five years, but still accounts for only 17 percent. In the social sciences, women are 42 percent of nontenured professors.

## Junior faculty not replenished

One reason there are fewer junior female professors in Harvard's humanities departments is that some of them have been promoted, getting tenure and joining the ranks of senior faculty. Of the 88 senior women on the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the main teaching body for Harvard College, 33 were promoted from within, according to university figures.

But the new numbers suggest

that their ranks are not being replenished among junior faculty. Some wonder whether female academics are more often choosing not to make the personal sacrifices required for a top-flight academic career, just as more women with MBAs and law degrees have been stepping off the corporate ladder in the last few years.

Observers suggest that this tension could be particularly acute at Harvard, which is known for its difficult process in awarding tenure. Harvard has long rejected most of its junior professors for tenure, instead poaching stars from other colleges. A female scholar considering starting a family, Tatar said, might think twice before committing to a school if she worried she would almost certainly leave in five to seven years.

Sensitive to such criticism, Harvard has made a conscious effort in the last few years to promote more assistant and associate professors. That has led to the ascent of young stars like Victorian scholar Leah Price, who last year became the first woman to be tenured from within the English department. In addition, the school allows a new parent with primary child-care responsibilities to delay tenure review by a year.

## Harvard seeks minorities, women

To diversify its faculty, Harvard has a longstanding policy that every academic job search should include an effort to identify women and minority candidates. The university changed its review process last year to require the dean or the provost to scrutinize each junior appointment, to make sure the search has been conducted broadly and fairly.

Harvard also has an eight-year-old "outreach fund" that allows the hiring of scholars from underrepresented groups, even if the department in question lacks an empty slot. The fund has supported 15 hires since it was created, and it is expected to spend \$20 million by 2020, Summers said.

It may be too soon to judge the success of Harvard's recent efforts. Some fear that the roots of the issue at Harvard and elsewhere may be that the attention given to gender equality in the 1980s and 1990s has simply waned.

"It's so easy to fall back into the old ways," said Susan R. Suleiman, a Harvard professor of Romance languages and comparative literature. "Cultural stereotypes are so embedded that unfortunately, when people think of what's best, the image that comes to mind is still often a young man."

"We need to be constantly examining our own assumptions," she said, "about excellence, about what is interesting work, and about what an academic should look like."

# Alpha Chi Sigma

## Professional Chemistry Fraternity



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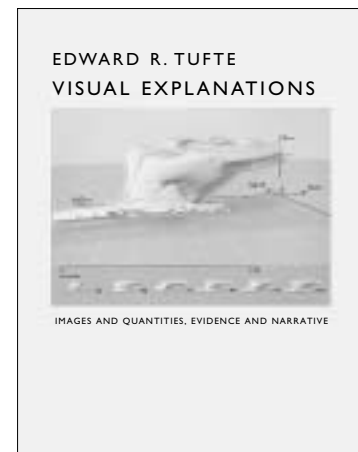
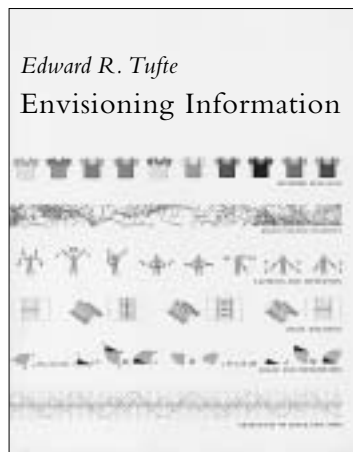
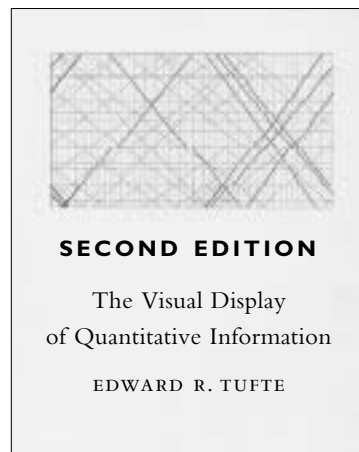
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# Women's Basketball Seeks Improvement

Basketball, from Page 24

seven point game. They built off a 19 point lead. We played hard, executed well, everything was right. We got the opportunities we wanted," Straub said.

The Engineers were without the ball handling of guard Andrea J. Dooley '06, but Jasmin Moghbeli '06, back from injury, was able to play again. The change in lineup, however, did not seem to affect playing much as MIT proved that they had the skill in their ball handling and rebounds. "We were beat in transitions and they had a little speed on us. But overall there was a good progression through the season," Straub said.

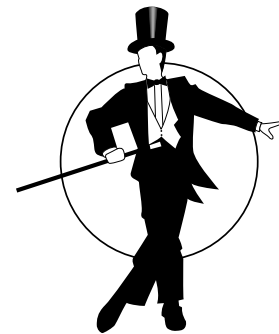
The game against Tufts also marked the last home game for this year's seniors who were all sent into the game with three minutes left in play. While the minute and a half they played was intended as more of a ceremonial tribute, Hidalgo, a leading point-scorer throughout the season, did manage to collect two points. "We all enjoy playing out there. It was a fun game, it was

tough. We picked it up at the end of the first half. I wanted this game to last forever," Samia A. Mahjub '04 said.

Last Saturday's loss at Wheaton College set the Engineers' final season record at 3-19, with all of their wins coming against non-NEWMAC opponents. A host of new players along with a new coach were among the factors contributing to the difficult season, as team members struggled to find their cohesiveness. "It's always rough adjusting to new things. With a young team and a new coach it's twice as hard," Hidalgo said.

In any case, though, the 2003-2004 season was a valuable learning experience as a development and transition year. "I learned a lot this season. I only played [basketball] for two years here and the whole thing was a big learning experience," Mahjub said.

And even now as the season is barely ending, the underclassmen look to next year for changes and improvement and will be able to bring the experiences of the past three months with them.



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DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Kyle T. Doherty '04 converts a layup against Eastern Nazarene College last Saturday in the Engineers' last home game of the season. The Engineers demolished the opposition 81-59, ending their season at 13-12. They will play at Clark University on Tuesday in the NEWMAC Championship Quarterfinals.

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## NEWMAC Swimming and Diving Championship



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

(clockwise from top left)

Jennifer A. La'O '05 swims in the 400-yard Individual Medley race this Saturday at the NEWMAC Women's Swimming & Diving Championship at the Zesiger Center. MIT won the race with a time of 4:41.72, shattering the MIT and the NEWMAC records for the event. The previous night, La'O also broke the school record for the 200-yard IM.

Sara Tremblay of Springfield College completes her dive off a one meter springboard. Tremblay placed first in the event, which is usually dominated by Springfield.

The MIT Women's Swimming and Diving Team gets together for a cheer before the start of the finals on Saturday. The team placed second with 642 points, behind Springfield.

Melissa E. Dere '06 comes up for a breath during the finals of the 200-yard medley relay. Dere, along with teammates Erin M. Zoller '05, Katherine C. Thornton '07, and Stephanie A. Sidelko '07, placed fourth in 1:55.30.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH



STANLEY HU—THE TECH



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

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## SPORTS

## Women's Track Runs Through Div. III Championships

By Alisha Schor

It is a well-known fact among track coaches and experienced runners that racing has a huge learning curve associated with it. A beginning runner will improve in leaps and bounds as fitness plays catch-up with ability, until that athlete has reached his or her level of base talent. It must be, then, that this rule applies to infant track teams as a whole.

In only its sixth season, with a host of newly-hired event coaches and a three-year-old facility, the women's indoor track team has produced six new varsity records and three new rookie records. This does not take into account the number of times a varsity record has been rewritten within this season and also does not applaud the countless top

ten all-time performances that have been recorded. "If you look at the record board, the oldest one is from 1999. The records are going to keep getting broken," co-captain Martha W. Buckley '04 said.

A large part of the huge improvements are due to a growing roster as well as a growing commitment to the sport. "Physically and as a team, we are definitely much stronger than last year. I think we are finally moving out of the 'young, growing team' stage. Besides strong leadership by our seniors, we have a dedicated junior class who [has] been out there every day for the past three years," Elizabeth R. Walker '06 said.

Last Saturday's New England Division III championships (hosted by MIT) produced two new varsity records, courtesy of the freshman-senior duo that has repeatedly

attacked the performance lists all season. Buckley's 17:35.93 in the five kilometer race was also a personal record, both indoor and outdoor, and Andrea Staid '07 redefined the 600 meter record she achieved last week, running a 1:40.89. Both Staid and Buckley's performances garnered them third place standings at the meet.

Athletes from the field events also contributing to the Engineers' point total on Saturday. Co-captain Catherine A. Tweedie G took victory in the pole vault with a height of eleven feet while a pair of horizontal jumpers broke into the top eight in their respective events as well. Chinwe P. Nyenke '04 took fifth in the triple jump (35' .25"), and Nalini Gupta '05 leaped to seventh place with 16' 8". These performances contributed to Tech Track's 31 point total, enough to give them the tenth place finish that was predicted for them on paper. "Before the meet, we estimated 31 points from the rankings and we scored exactly 31, so we matched our seed," Head Coach Paul Slovenski said.

Several non-MIT performances highlighted the meet as well. Carter Hamill of Amherst College earned a new meet record in the 5k, finishing nearly 40 seconds ahead of the second place finisher in 16:40.58. Hamill is currently the NCAA Division III leader in that event, having run a 16:32 earlier in the season.

Jessica Trombley of Tufts won two thrilling battles during the meet, first squeaking out a 0.12 second win in the 800 meters (2:15.58, a meet record), and later anchoring Tufts's 4x400 meter relay to a 3:59.56, bettering Amherst's second place time of 4:01.33. Both performances were among the 15 Johnson Athletic Center records set on Saturday of 20 events contested.

Next Saturday, individuals and relays that have made the qualifying standards will compete at Boston University for the All-New England Championships.



Brita M. Mittal '07 takes the baton from Alisa P. Lehman '06 to anchor the women's 4x800 meter relay at the Johnson Athletic Center on Saturday. MIT placed 13th in the relay.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH  
Andrea Staid '07 leads off the women's 4x800 meter relay on Saturday. Staid set a varsity record in the 600m earlier in the day, clocking 1:40.89 for third place. MIT finished 10th overall in the team standings, and Williams College won the meet with 154 points.

## MIT Basketball Season Ends with Cohesive Joy

By Alisha Schor

Two losses marked the end of the MIT women's basketball season last week, but they did not tell the whole story. Last Saturday's game at Wheaton College left the Engineers only nine points down (47-56), while last Thursday's game against Tufts (40-66) was a well played effort, a disap-

pointment only because of an early deficit that was too large to make up. "We got off to a slow start [against Tufts], but we got ourselves back in it. It was just too big of a hole," Maria E. Hidalgo '04 said. Head Coach Kristi Straub agreed, noting that the team played well, discounting the opening minutes of the game: "If we take away the first eight minutes of the game, it was a

Basketball, Page 23



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH  
Michal A. Ruchelsman '07 drives to the basket against Tufts on Thursday, the last home game of the season. The Engineers lost 40-66.

## The Lack of Loyalty in Sports

By Yong-yi Zhu  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

This past week saw the transition of several major sports stars from their homes of long-standing to their new homes of much-money-paying. Greg Maddux and Mark Brunell, one Atlantan Hall of Famer and one Jacksonvillian legend, who just happen to be two of my personal heroes, moved from their respective teams to new ones because of monetary issues.

Greg Maddux has been with the Braves, winning Cy Youngs and Gold Gloves since 1993. In fact, he has won just under 200 of his 289 games with Atlanta. Greg Maddux has been a staple with 15 or more wins for each and every year he has been with the Braves. Before that however, Maddux was a Cub, and now he is one once again. He agreed to a two-year deal worth \$15 million with an option for a third year at \$9 million. With that, he was no longer a member of the Atlanta Braves, because Time-Warner no longer had the type of money that Ted Turner used to have to keep his aces around, especially not the ones that have Scott Boras as their agent. I guess I just never wanted this to happen, despite knowing that it eventually would.

Then, I got a surprising instant message Thursday night when someone informed me that Mark Brunell had left the Jacksonville Jaguars organization. This wasn't a surprise by any means, but it still managed to jostle me a bit. The Jaguars felt very little allegiance towards Brunell after drafting Byron Leftwich last season. So, as soon as Brunell got injured, Leftwich took over and the team has not looked back. Congrats to Leigh Steinberg for getting such a good citizen such a great contract, as Brunell signed for \$40 million over seven years with the Washington Redskins. He has been not only been the leader for the Jaguars, their second quarterback ever, but he has also contributed to his community. However, since the Jaguars did not want to commit the big bucks for Brunell's leadership and his athleticism, and since they had invest-

ed money in their quarterback for the future, they no longer had regard for their quarterback of the past.

But those two are not the exception. Loyalty is no longer the craze in professional sports. I relish the players like Cal Ripken, Dan Marino, and David Robinson who played their entire careers in one club. It's looking like fewer and fewer people will be those kinds of ballplayers. Several players look like they have a chance of doing that: Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson, John Smoltz, and Derek Jeter are a few. Those are definitely among the minority in any sports league.

People who we thought would be a lifer in a city suddenly skip ship on us at the very last second. Take Emmitt Smith for example. Who could have imagined that Emmitt would be an Arizona Cardinal one day. He set the record as a Cowboy and all signs pointed to him retiring at that point. But then, he wanted to continue to play football, and Jerry Jones didn't care. So much for sentimentality. There was also Jerry Rice, who I could have sworn would end his life in a 49ers uniform. Instead, Rice went to Oakland; how unstorybook-like.

What I never could have imagined was Roger Clemens coming out of retirement to be an Astro. Granted, it is convenient for him to work close to home and granted still that Clemens will get to pitch with his buddy Andy Pettitte, but can't people just retire anymore? Legendary stories don't get written because that is no longer of value. Free agency is the coolest thing since sliced bread because players can go somewhere and if their agent is the likes of Boras or Steinberg, they will still get any amount of money they desire.

Loyalty to the team has been replaced by loyalty to the dollar. But I guess in this materialistic world, dollars are everything. Money drives our sports economy: see any Barry Bonds ball auction. What's sad is that our heroes might not always be our heroes anymore because they enjoy cash flow rather than fan approval. I guess I'll just have to be a Byron Leftwich and Russ Ortiz fan from now on.