

SCOT FRANK—THE TECH

Professor Frank Wilczek, recipient of the 2004 Nobel Prize in physics, gives a lecture entitled "The Universe is a Strange Place," one of the Ford/MIT Nobel Laureate Lectures, on Monday, Mar. 4, in Kresge Auditorium. The image on the screen behind Wilczek portrays the aftermath of a collision between heavy nuclei at extreme energies. See page 19 for more.

Tuition Increases 5% To Top \$32K in Fall

By Beckett W. Sterner
NEWS EDITOR

MIT's projected total cost for a year of undergraduate education will rise 4.4 percent to \$44,600 next academic year, said Elizabeth M. Hicks, executive director of Student Financial Services.

Tuition will rise 4.9 percent to \$32,100, she said. The total increase in cost equates to about \$7.8 million in increased revenue for the Institute. Financial aid will also rise by \$7 million, Hicks said.

"This year's tuition increase will enable MIT to maintain the high quality of its educational programs for all students," said Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine in a press release.

The breakdown for projected costs next year is tuition, \$32,100; student activities fee, \$200; housing (averaged over all offered rents), \$5,250; meal allowance, \$4,250; books and supplies, \$1,100; and personal expenses, \$1,700.

Expected student earnings same

MIT will not expect its students to earn more during the academic year and over the summer than it has in the past, Hicks said.

Students receiving financial aid from the Institute will be expected to cover \$5,500 with loans or term-

time jobs, the same amount as last year.

Hicks said MIT has no current plans to follow the decisions of Harvard and Yale to fully fund the cost of education for families earning under \$40,000 or \$45,000.

"We are very happy with the way that we assess need" currently, she said. "We look at both income and assets, and we actually are very proud of the number of families making less than \$45,000 who are here at MIT as a result of our generous financial aid policy."

About 16 percent of students at MIT are from families earning under \$41,000 per year, significantly less than the 40 percent of families with at most that income nationwide. The nationwide average for universities, however, is only three percent, Hicks said.

While Harvard and Yale's recent policy changes were specifically aimed at increasing the number of students from the lower income brackets, MIT is doing well in that regard, she said. "We have one of the highest ratios of undergraduates" getting financial aid compared to similar universities, she said.

"Almost 58 percent of the undergraduates will be receiving scholarships from MIT next year."

New Tuition:	\$32.1K
Old Tuition:	\$30.6K
New Total Cost:	\$44.6K
Old Total Cost:	\$42.7K
Avg. Housing:	\$5,250

Panel Discusses Revision of GIRs

By Kathy Lin
and Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITORS

At a presentation on MacVicar Day last Friday, members of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons presented their ideas about the future of the General Institute Requirements while stressing that no final decisions had been made.

The presentation focused on suggested modifications to add flexibility to the six subject science core while

maintaining rigor, and possible simplifications to the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences requirement.

The purpose of the committee is to "conduct a fundamental, comprehensive review of the undergraduate common experience," said Robert J. Silbey, chair of the Task Force and dean of the School of Science. The last major revision occurred in 1964, he said.

Flexible science core proposed

The Task Force is faced with the

challenges of optimizing the four years that undergraduates typically spend at MIT, which are too limited for all the items the Task Force would like to include in the undergraduate curriculum, Silbey said.

One requirement under discussion is the six subject required science core. According to excerpts from a draft report of the Task Force Subcommittee on Optimizing the Science Engineering Components of the

GIR, Page 17

Zhenxiu Mao

Zhenxiu Mao, a first year graduate student in mathematics, was found dead in his apartment on Feb. 28.

Huadong Pang G, a friend who took classes with Mao, said he was an "excellent guy" who generously donated money to poor elementary and high school students in China even though he did not have much money.

Mao was incredibly smart, Pang said. He had high expectations for himself and would read books for ten hours at a time, barely eating or sleeping.

Zhou Zhang G and Fangyun Yang G, who shared an office with Mao, described him as a cheerful, hardworking, friendly, and easygoing person who liked table tennis.

Although he did not necessarily take the first initiative to meet new people, Mao was a lively, kind, and good friend who was easy to work with, said Xuhua He G, a friend.

Mao was ambitious and "more advanced than most" first-year graduate students, making excellent progress toward a thesis although he was only in his second semester at MIT, said Mathematics Professor Pavel I. Etingof. "He was a wonderful student, academically very successful."

Funeral services will be planned when Mao's parents arrive, pending clearance of their visas, Yuhua Hu G said. Services will probably be held early next week, she said.

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Motives Revealed by Athena Hacker

by Marissa Vogt
NEWS EDITOR

The person responsible for stealing over 600 Athena username/password pairs last Tuesday night released a statement via e-mail late Friday night. The e-mail was sent from a quick-station in the Stata Center, with the same Yahoo! account used to send out the username/password pairs last week.

Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, network manager for Information Services and Technology, said that he received an e-mail from the individual on Friday night and has since received several more, though he declined to comment on the nature of the other e-mails.

"The point that I'm out to prove

is not that there is a newly discovered vulnerability in Athena," the e-mail stated. "I just believe that the current level of security that is pre-

but it is my belief that they did not consider the serious implications of deploying such an insecure system," the e-mail stated.



JOHN CLOUTIER—THE TECH

A student pauses to check his e-mail at an Athena QuickStation in Building 32 on Monday night. It was at these terminals that members of the self-proclaimed Athena Insecurity Squad captured over 600 Athena username and password pairs last week in an effort to demonstrate to MIT Information Services and Technology the need for increased security on the Athena operating system.

sent is completely unacceptable."

"I understand that the designers of Athena realized these vulnerabilities and decided to leave the system with these vulnerabilities present,

Schiller declined to comment on developments in the investigation or whether the recent e-mails had provided any clues to the identity of the perpetrator.

"We will either catch the person, or we will keep trying until we do," Schiller said. Once the perpetrator has been identified, said Schiller, the matter will be referred to William M.

Fischer, associate dean for student conduct and risk management, or the Committee on Discipline.

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WORLD & NATION

Hans Bethe, Father of Nuclear Astrophysics, Dies at 98

By William J. Broad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Hans Bethe, who discovered the violent force behind sunlight, helped devise the atom bomb and eventually cried out against the military excesses of the Cold War, died late Sunday. He was 98, the last of the giants who inaugurated the nuclear age.

His death was announced by Cornell University, where he worked and taught for 70 years. A spokesman said he died quietly at home in Ithaca, N.Y.

For nearly eight decades, Bethe pioneered some of the most esoteric realms of physics and astrophysics, politics and armaments, advising the federal government and emerging as the science community's conscience.

During World War II, he led the theoreticians who devised the atom bomb and for decades afterwards fought against many new arms proposals.

Boeing CEO Forced To Resign over Affair

By Leslie Wayne
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The chief executive of the Boeing Co., Harry C. Stonecipher, who was brought out of retirement 15 months ago to clean up the company's tarnished image and restore credibility at the world's second-largest aerospace company, was forced to resign Monday for having an affair with a female Boeing executive.

The resignation of Stonecipher, 68, came as a shock to both Wall Street investors and officials in Washington, who had been closely watching the company's ethical travails. The company, which is the Pentagon's No. 2 supplier, is struggling to recover from its role in an Air Force procurement scandal, the loss of important government contracts and the jailing of two former top executives.

Stonecipher, married and with grown children, was fired for having violated an internal code of conduct that he had imposed on all Boeing employees as he tried to improve the company's actions and image. His predecessor, Philip M. Condit, was forced to resign in 2003 because of ethical lapses and poor business prospects that Stonecipher was hired to remedy.

Senate Rejects Dueling Measures To Raise the Minimum Wage

By Marilyn Geewax
COX NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON

The Senate on Monday rejected two very different measures that would have raised the minimum wage.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., proposed a measure to boost the wage in three steps over 26 months from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour, the first hike in eight years.

"I believe that anyone who works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year should not live in poverty in the richest country in the world," he said.

Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., offered an alternative that would have raised the wage to \$6.25 in two steps over 18 months.

"You're going to price a lot of people out of the (job) market," he said. In contrast, his own amendment "keeps the balance" between the need to raise wages and the desire to hold down inflation.

Both senators were seeking to amend a bankruptcy reform bill. Under rules unanimously agreed to in advance, any amendment needed 60 votes for adoption, and neither proposal came close.

Kennedy's amendment won the support of 46 senators, while 49 opposed it. Santorum's was backed by 38 senators and opposed by 61.

Assad Does Not Give Pullout Date, Inciting Large Protests

By Jad Mouawad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Two days after the president of Syria left vague the extent of a promised troop withdrawal, he clarified his plan somewhat on Monday: By the end of March, Syria will move its soldiers in Lebanon closer to the border. But he offered no public timetable to remove any troops from the country.

The Syrian president, Bashar Assad, and his Lebanese ally, President Emile Lahoud, said in a statement issued on Monday after they met in Damascus that a pullout of Syria's 14,000 troops stationed in Lebanon would have to wait for further negotiations with a future Lebanese government.

The announcement fell far short of the expectations of demonstrators in Lebanon as well as demands by President Bush and European leaders for the full dismantlement of the Syrian military and intelligence apparatus in Lebanon.

In Beirut, tens of thousands of people took to the streets on Monday in the biggest protests so far since the death of Rafik Hariri, the former prime minister whose assassination three weeks ago prompted a series of

weekly rallies led by opponents of the Syrian presence here. They repeated accusations that Syria was responsible for the killing.

The eclectic opposition — composed of Christian, Druse and Sunni Muslim politicians, although notably lacking in Shiite Muslims — believes that it has already scored precious points against Syria and is eager to press its advantage before parliamentary elections to be held in May.

Monday's announcement increases the likelihood that Syrian troops will still be in the country when Lebanese go to the polls.

But the protesters have become emboldened by the resignation last week of the pro-Syrian government of Prime Minister Omar Karami, who quit in the face of street demonstrations. The opposition, which has camped out on Beirut's main square for three weeks, is already gearing up for another rally next Monday.

"The Syrians are playing for time, and I don't think they will succeed," said Samir Kassir, a Lebanese political analyst. "This has been obtained by the joint pressure from the street and by the pressure of the international community. Still, it's a first step in the right direction. That's why we can't let the pressure drop now."

Under clear blue skies, protesters convened around noon in Martyrs' Square, in the heart of the Lebanese capital, where Hariri is buried along with six bodyguards who were killed with him. The crowd shouted, "Syria out!" and "Truth, liberty and national unity," which has become the rallying cry for the partisans of Hariri and other opposition movements.

Towering above the crowd, thousands of red-and-white flags spotted with the green of Lebanon's emblem, the cedar, waved in one of the most powerful shows of national unity the country has witnessed since its independence more than 60 years ago.

"The huge majority of Lebanese are in agreement," said Nassib Lahoud, an opposition legislator. "We want the withdrawal of the Syrian troops, we want the truth about who ordered the killing of Mr. Rafik Hariri, and we want the resignation of those who are responsible for security in the country."

Demonstrators then marched raucously to the site of Hariri's killing, in front of the city's main international hotels. By the time the front of the demonstration reached the site, about a mile away, many were still pouring out of the square in a joyous and tumultuous but peaceful procession.

Bush Chooses Past U.N. Critic As U.S. Representative to U.N.

By Steven R. Weisman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush on Monday named John R. Bolton, a blunt-spoken conservative known for his sharp skepticism of the United Nations and international diplomacy, as the new American representative to the United Nations.

Administration officials said his appointment would strengthen efforts to hold the United Nations to effective standards. But the nomination brought expressions of concern from many diplomats speaking on the condition that they not be identified by name or country, many of whom noted that Bolton had been scathing in his criticism of the United Nations.

"He is a tough-minded diplomat, he has a strong record of success and he has a proven track record of effective multilateralism." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at the State Department in making the announcement. "Through history, some of our best ambassadors have been those with the strongest voices, ambassadors like Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Daniel Patrick Moynihan."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations, informed of the appointment by Rice on Monday morning, said through a spokesman that he looked forward to working with Bolton.

Bolton, 57, is a lawyer who has worked in federal government, mostly in the State Department, for most of the past 25 years. For the

past four, he has served as undersecretary of state for arms control and international security affairs. His elevation would now put him in perhaps the most visible diplomatic job outside that of Rice.

As examples of Bolton's record on diplomacy, Rice cited the Treaty of Moscow, which reduces nuclear warheads while permitting an anti-missile system; nuclear negotiations with Libya; and the Proliferation Security Initiative, in which the United States and its allies try to interdict the shipment of dangerous arms.

The nomination brought strong praise from many Republicans and conservatives. "He's been our man at the State Department," said David Keene, chairman of the American Conservative Union.

WEATHER

March Madness

By Nikki Privé
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Let the old snow be covered with the new:
The trampled snow, so soiled, and stained, and sodden.
Let it be hidden wholly from our view
By pure white flakes, all trackless and untrodden.
When Winter dies, low at the sweet Spring's feet
Let him be mantled in a clean, white sheet.

— Ella Wheeler Wilcox

After a taste of Spring yesterday, winter returns with a vengeance tonight and Wednesday. A low pressure system will bring rain showers to Boston this morning and usher in a cold front during the afternoon. Temperatures will fall steadily throughout the day, turning the rain to snow during the evening. As the low moves out to sea, it will intensify and pull down cold air from the north, keeping conditions well below freezing with strong winds. Temperatures will moderate somewhat by the end of the week, and a coastal storm early this weekend will bring the next chance of snow.

Extended Forecast:

Today: Rain showers in the morning turning to snow during the afternoon as temperatures fall from the mid 40s°F (7°C) to below freezing in the evening.

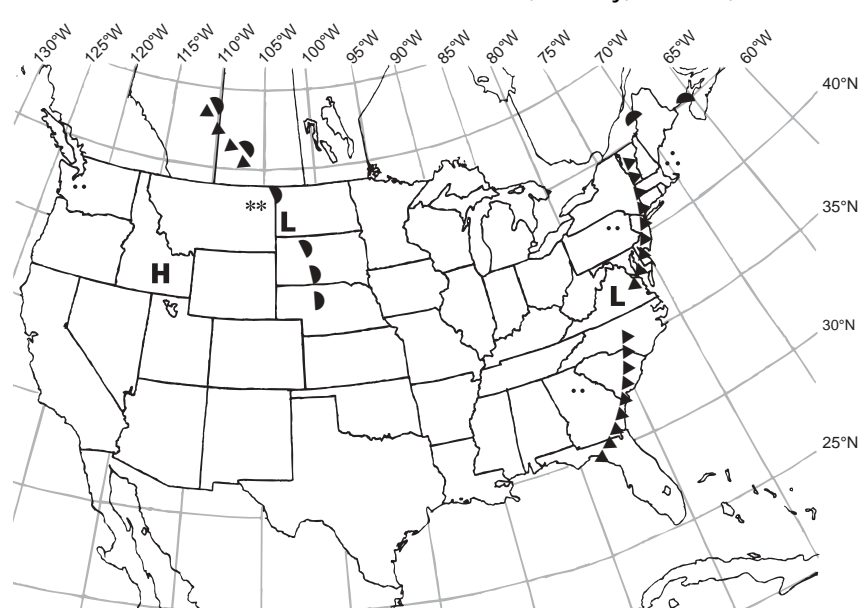
Tonight: Continued chance of snow, possibly heavy at times, low near 15°F (-9°C). Significant accumulations are not expected. Windy, with bitterly cold wind chills.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy and breezy, much colder with highs in the upper 20s°F (-2°C).

Wednesday night: Clouds increasing with a few snow showers possible late, low near 25°F (-3°C).

Thursday: Mostly cloudy and a little warmer, high near 35°F (1°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, YYYday, March 8, 2005



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow: * (light), ** (moderate), *** (heavy)	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	—•— Warm Front	Rain: • (light), ** (moderate), *** (heavy)	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	—▲— Cold Front		☁ Haze
	—▲— Stationary Front		

Compiled by MIT
Meteorology Staff
and The Tech

At Least 17 Iraqis Die in Armed Assaults and Suicide Bombings

By Robert F. Worth
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Insurgents carried out a string of armed assaults and suicide bombings in central Iraq on Monday, killing at least a dozen Iraqi army soldiers and police officers and five civilians, officials said.

The violence, coming after a weekend of relative calm, began in Baquba, 35 miles northeast of the capital, where three separate attacks on Iraqi army checkpoints and convoys left 12 officers dead and 24 people wounded, army officials said.

In Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, a suicide bomber drove a pickup laden with explosives into the house of an army officer, the police said. The blast killed at least five civilians — including two students outside a high school next door — and wounded 24. In Baghdad, gunmen opened fire on two police patrols, killing one officer and wounding another, police officials said.

The Bulgarian defense minister, Nikolai Svinarov, said Monday that a

Bulgarian soldier killed in southern Iraq on Friday appeared to have been struck by gunfire that had come from the direction of American troops in the area. He said he had written to American military authorities demanding an investigation. The commanding general of allied forces in the area has appointed a special commission to investigate the attack, U.S. military officials said.

The shooting of the Bulgarian took place on the same day that American soldiers at a security checkpoint in Baghdad fired on a car carrying the Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, wounding her and killing an Italian intelligence officer.

A senior Defense Department official in Washington said Monday that the American military checkpoint the Italians' car was approaching consisted of two barriers across the road. The official could not say what the barriers were made of, how large they were or whether they were permanent or temporary. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there were two Army

Humvees parked near the checkpoint, but apparently not in the road itself.

Another senior Pentagon official reiterated the military's initial statement that the Italians' car was traveling at high speed. Sgrena has said that her car was traveling slowly when she and her colleagues came under fire.

The Pentagon official did not offer new details on the incident, but suggested that the Italians' car had not responded to soldiers' hand signals, flashing lights and warning shots — steps the official said soldiers would have taken to warn the car to stop. "There were any number of cars passing through that checkpoint that night," said the defense official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. "They fired on that car for a reason."

The new insurgent attacks came a day after government officials announced that Iraq's newly elected national assembly will meet for the first time on March 16, regardless of whether a new government has been formed by then.

Dozens of Terrorist Suspects Buy Firearms in U.S., Agency Reports

By Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Dozens of terrorist suspects on federal watch lists were allowed to buy firearms legally in the United States last year, according to a congressional investigation that points up major vulnerabilities in federal gun laws.

People suspected of being members of terrorist groups are not automatically barred from legally buying a gun, and the new investigation, conducted by congressional officials at the Government Accountability Office, indicated that people with clear links to terrorist groups had taken advantage of this gap on a regular basis.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, law enforcement officials and gun control groups have voiced increasing concern about the prospect of having a terrorist walk into a gun shop, legally buying an assault rifle or other type of weapon, and using it in an attack.

The GAO study offers the first full-scale examination of the possible dangers posed by gaps in the law, congressional officials said, and it concludes that the FBI could do a better job of matching gun

background checks against lists of suspected terrorists.

At least 44 times between February and June of 2004, people regarded by the FBI as known or suspected members of terrorist groups sought permission to buy or carry guns, the GAO found.

In all but nine cases, the FBI or state authorities who handled the requests allowed the gun applications to proceed because a check of the would-be buyer found no automatic disqualification, like being a felon, an illegal immigrant or a person deemed "mentally defective," the report found.

In the four months after the formal study ended, authorities received another 14 gun applications from terror suspects, and all but two of those were cleared to proceed, the investigation found. In all, officials approved 47 of 58 gun applications from terror suspects over a nine-month period last year, the GAO found.

The gun buyers came up as positive matches on a classified internal FBI watch list that includes thousands of high-risk terrorist suspects, many of them being monitored, trailed or sought for questioning as part of continuing terrorism investigations, officials

said.

GAO investigators were not given access to the identities or histories of the gun buyers because of the sensitivity of those terrorism investigations.

The report is to be released on Tuesday, and an advance copy was provided to The New York Times.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., who requested the GAO study, plans to introduce legislation to address the problem in part by requiring federal officials to keep records of gun purchases by terror suspects for a minimum of 10 years.

Such records must now be destroyed within 24 hours as a result of a change ordered by Congress last year, but Lautenberg maintains that the new policy has hindered terrorism investigations by eliminating the paper trail on gun purchases.

"Destroying these records in 24 hours is senseless and will only help terrorists cover their tracks," Lautenberg said Monday. "It's an absurd policy."

Lautenberg blamed the problem on what he called the Bush administration's "twisted allegiances" to the National Rifle Association.

Report Says Health Officials Are Not Getting Best Drug Prices for Medicaid

By Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Federal health officials are not enforcing a law that requires drug companies to cut their prices on drugs bought for poor people under Medicaid, congressional investigators said on Monday.

The investigators from the Government Accountability Office said the federal Medicaid agency rarely verified the accuracy of price data reported by drug manufacturers and used to compute the discounts required by law. As a result, they said, Medicaid, the nation's largest health insurance program, with more than 50 million beneficiaries, often pays too much for prescription drugs.

Even when federal officials detect errors and problems in the data, they do not require drug companies to make corrections, the report said.

The accountability office, an investigative arm of Congress, said

the Medicaid agency provided "minimal oversight" of the program. Moreover, it said, the agency headed by Dr. Mark B. McClellan does little to "ensure the accuracy of reported prices" and discounts provided by drug makers.

Medicaid is financed jointly by the federal government and the states. Under a 1990 law intended to help control costs Medicaid pays for prescription medicines only if the manufacturer agrees to give certain discounts in the form of rebates to the states. In buying brand-name drugs, Medicaid is entitled to the "best price" charged to any buyer, with some exceptions.

The accountability office found that manufacturers sometimes concealed the best prices, so they would not have to give the same discounts to Medicaid.

Drug spending has grown rapidly and now accounts for more than 10 percent of all Medicaid spending, about \$37 billion of \$300 bil-

lion this year. Rebates and discounts total at least \$6 billion a year.

The GAO said it could not determine the amount of federal overpayments. In general, it said, the federal Medicaid agency has allowed drug companies to use any "reasonable assumptions" they wanted in computing discounts. In the case of one manufacturer, congressional auditors found that proper accounting would have increased savings to Medicaid by 16 percent.

In recent years more and more prescription drugs have been bought by middlemen, known as pharmacy benefit managers, on behalf of employer-sponsored health plans and other health insurers. These middlemen, like Medco and Express Scripts, often secure large discounts for their clients. But the report said the Bush administration had given drug companies no guidance on how to account for such concessions in calculating the discounts for Medicaid.

Aspirin Therapy Benefits Women, But Not in the Way It Aids Men

By Mary Duenwald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Regular use of low-dose aspirin does not help prevent first heart attacks in women as it does in men, a 10-year study of healthy women has found.

Participants in the Women's Health Study who took 100 milligrams of aspirin every other day were no less likely to suffer heart attacks than those in another group who took placebos. Each group had about 20,000 members.

But aspirin did appear to help protect the women against stroke — something the drug has not been found conclusively to do for men.

"What was really surprising and not anticipated was this gender difference," said Dr. Elizabeth G. Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which helped finance the Women's Health Study. The study of healthy women over 45, conducted by researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, was the first large clinical trial to look specifically at the effects of aspirin on women.

Rebel Attacks Down Sharply In Afghanistan, U.S. Says

By Carlotta Gall
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Attacks and firefights involving American forces in Afghanistan have decreased so much that violent contacts are now rare, the U.S. general in charge of operations in Afghanistan said Monday.

American casualties are also down in the last few months, he said. Lt. Gen. Eric Olson, commander of Combined Joint Task Force 76, summed up U.S. military activities in Afghanistan since he arrived a year ago, saying that many previously insecure areas of the country were now safe and that Afghans seemed to have become increasingly cordial toward the American troops.

"When we arrived in the spring of 2004, we experienced 10 to 15 attacks against coalition forces each week," he said at a news briefing. "Now at this point we rarely receive more than five attacks per week." There have been 20 to 25 deaths among U.S. troops in the last year, he said.

The biggest fall in insurgent activity was in the southern provinces of Zabul, Uruzgan and Kandahar, Olson said, where supporters of the country's ousted Taliban rulers have been most active in the last two years.

"At the same time we are seeing Afghan security organizations being able to operate much more freely in some of these areas that used to be very violent," he said.

Genzyme CEO May See Lower Compensation

By Jeffrey Krasner
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Genzyme Corp. chief executive Henri A. Termeer, one of the most highly compensated executives in the biotechnology industry, will receive a base salary of \$1.4 million this year, and the target for his bonus is \$1.5 million, according to company reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

That \$2.90 million total would be a decline of about 5.7 percent from the \$3.1 million he received in 2004, which was comprised of \$1.3 million in salary plus a bonus of \$1.8 million, according to the filing.

In 2003, Termeer earned \$2.8 million in combined salary and bonus.

Termeer's 2005 compensation won't necessarily decline from last year's, though. The Cambridge company's compensation policy allows senior executives to earn more than the target bonus, based on outstanding performance.

The target bonus includes measures of corporate performance and individual achievement. For every 1 percent Termeer's performance exceeds his target, his bonus is increased by 2.5 percent, to a maximum of 1.5 times the target bonus, according to the filing.

Gang War Prison Fire Kills 133 Inmates

By Jean-Michel Caroit
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Rival gangs armed with guns, knives and machetes battling for dominance in a prison in the Dominican Republic set off a fire early Monday that swept through a crowded cellblock, killing more than 133 inmates and injuring 26, the authorities said.

The fight in the prison in Higuey, 90 miles east of Santo Domingo, began late Sunday night and was briefly quelled by guards firing tear gas. But it flared anew about 2:30 a.m. when several members of one of the gangs set pillows and bedding on fire in the cellblock, known as Vietnam.

The National Police chief, Manuel de Jesus Perez Sanchez, said firefighters could not reach the prisoners or the fire because inmates had jammed the locks with sand and other debris. Among the dead, officials said, were two Puerto Rican inmates and a Haitian.

"It was awful; I saw piles of burnt bodies on the sidewalk," said Arevalo Cedeno, a lawyer who lives near the prison. "It was an inferno."

President Leonel Fernandez was in Spain on Monday, but Vice-President Rafael Albuquerque traveled to Higuey and ordered an investigation into the fire.

"How did weapons enter the jail?" said Francisco Dominguez Brito, the prosecutor general of the Dominican Republic. "We have to acknowledge there was negligence in this case."

Overcrowding and corruption has long been a chronic problem in Dominican prisons. The Higuey jail was built in 1960 to house 80 inmates, but according to the director of Prisons, Juan Ramon de la Cruz Martinez, it had a population of 426 on the morning of the fire.

Andrea Elliott contributed reporting from New York for this article.

OPINION

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De-Classifying Women

Replacing one set of constraining expectations for women (being loyal to husband, staying home and rearing kids, etc.) with another (being on the vanguard of science careers, representing all women, etc.) is an ironic mistake. The whole point should be that women feel free to do what they will with their lives, and the pseudo-feminism promoted in Matt Alvarado's Mar. 4 "An Open letter To Cassi Hunt" suggests women should feel comfortable doing with their lives what they wish only so far as it conforms to his politics. No woman should feel that letting down society is somehow at stake in every choice she makes (whether it's to pursue her dream of being a mother or an engineer or both). Men are free to choose their direction in life without the oppressive weight of such responsibility, and women should have the same.

If Ms. Hunt wants to do physics and be noted solely for her accomplishments as a scientist (isn't that the ultimate goal of equality?), leave her alone. She doesn't owe you or me a thing, and your patronizing, self-righteous indignation at her is really out of line. It is hypocritical, but telling, that you rush to support her for daring to be on the vanguard of woman in physics, but cut her down for daring to go against academic orthodoxy.

Sadly, she may be more the maverick as a politically incorrect free thinker at MIT than as a woman in physics.

It is counterproductive to fight discrimination against women by acting as if being a woman in science is such a remarkable thing that the woman is under some sort of repayment obligation for the privilege. That society at one point didn't allow women equal access is what is remarkable (as one error among many others), and women will never experience true equality in society while we act as if it's novel when they achieve something, or patronize them with encouragement for trying. Most importantly, it's absurd to make assertions about what women should want to do with their lives given the removal of boundaries, and it's arrogant for men to assume women will make career choices in the same proportions as we do, if only given the opportunity. Mr. Alvarado should be praised for doing his part to solve the problem and remove environmental barriers for women, but should leave individual women alone to their choices.

At the end of the day, is our goal some statistical measure that satisfies our personal political assumptions about the world, or is it the opportunity of fulfillment to each individual, whatever that means?

Jonathan Birge G

Linguistic Success Based on Many Efforts

I am writing with an important correction to your Mar. 4 article about this year's MacVicar Fellowships ["Three Professors Win MacVicar Fellowships"]. In describing our growing and thriving linguistics major, the article cites me as having "developed numerous classes, including a field methods class he taught last semester" on Tagalog (24.910), which I am quoted as calling "an incredible hit." The field methods class was indeed an incredible hit — a truly wonderful class — but I neither developed it nor taught it! The course was developed and taught by my colleague Prof. Norvin Richards. What I actually hoped to convey in my interview with your reporter was the fact that all of us in linguistics have been working hard (and from what we can see, effectively) to develop an exciting and attractive undergraduate program in linguistics.

Likewise, while I can take some credit as the developer of one of our undergraduate courses (24.902) (not, alas, the "numerous classes" attributed to me), the richness of our current offerings in linguistics is the result of the collective efforts of all of us in Course XXIV.

David Pesetsky
Professor of Linguistics



Opinion Policy

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

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

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

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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The Perils of Conservatism

Omar Molina

Massachusetts is one of the only places I've ever been where it's easy to come out as anything as long as it's not Conservative. For the most part, the Liberal mantra of "diversity and tolerance" just does not extend to the other side of the political ledger. Now, before you rashly pass judgment on this being another pity-me-I'm-a-lonely-Conservative-in-Lib-ville piece, take some time and hear me out. Loan me that open mind you claim to have; I promise to spare the bleatings in exchange for experience.

I am risking being blacklisted, impugned, and excommunicated from my social holes by coming out and writing this piece. I've kept my sentiments to myself despite seething vitriol and various attempts at proselytization from faculty members and students alike. After the victory that this election secured, I feel an aura of invincibility that makes me impervious to attacks from any political opponent. As a Conservative, I'm frankly tired of having my ideals bastardized, my policy misunderstood, my beliefs mocked, and my opinions disregarded.

We need to lay some things to rest and put the kibosh to others before they even begin.

Now for some myth-mashing. The following are things I am not:

White: Not all Conservatives are white. I am Hispanic.

Rich: I come from a middle-class family in one of the poorest districts in Texas.

Bigoted: I'll talk policy with anyone who has good points.

Stupid: I'm at MIT. I know; I've heard of SPAMIT — I'm not a member.

Homophobic: Just because I may disapprove of something does not make it any of my business, nor does it mean I hate those that engage in it; this goes for abortion as well.

Racist: This is a tough card to play. I'm politically incorrect, not racist.

Sexist: I love women.

When I first moved here, I thought Massachusetts was going to be a nice place to be for the next four years ... until I saw my dorm tax. The only thing we did with taxes back home was a vowel swap to name our great state. I also did not know that I was a stubborn, stupid, rich, white, racist, misogynist homophobe until I moved here.

Watching the debates while in enemy territory was quite interesting to say the least. Amid the laughter, cursing, and yelling, I think I heard

a total of about 10 minutes of what the President said. How do we have any hope of healing wounds when you won't even listen to us? Election night, a dorm-wide e-mail titled "F*CKING BUSH" launched a sortie of anti-Conservative sentiment to all subscribers to our mailing list. It seemed as if I was the only one that minded.

One thing both sides need to realize is that neither side is trying to destroy America (I'm giving you the benefit of the doubt). Both candidates ran on what they felt was best for our great country. The one that more Americans agreed with got the spot. This is the part where you accept it

and move on. "Dissent is Patriotic" and "W isn't my president" are two common lines that could not be more diametrically opposed. If W isn't your president, then America isn't your country — considering, after all, he is the President of the United States. Where's the patriotism in denying your own country's leader?

I only ask one thing from you all before you pass judgment on any of our policies — it is that you give it a thorough check while know-

ing all facts. For example, the last opinion piece on policy that I read, which was about social security, had more holes in it than a frat house dartboard. Comparing the Bush proposal to a Chilean failure is comparable to pitting the American Revolution against the French Revolution. The situations and circumstances surrounding both events are completely different. The fact is that if nothing is done by 2018, Social Security will start pumping out more

money than it brings in. Try a little more Al Greenspan and a little less Al Franken. Bush's plan will not steal anything from anyone and allows for a supplemental income from investing part of your social security payment. This is a far cry from the skewed picture of full on privatization that those who do not take the time to understand try to paint. And for crying out loud, can we have one discussion of Bush without mentioning fascism or Nazism? Sure, we right-wingers are closer to Hitler in ideals than you are, but you're closer to Stalin ... so we're even.

Omar Molina is a member of the class of 2008.

Sure, we right-wingers are closer to Hitler in ideals than you are, but you're closer to Stalin ... so we're even.

Krugman on Social Security

Ken Nesmith

Paul Krugman was a professor of economics at MIT, and he now works at Princeton. One of the themes of his writing is that because most government spending is efficient and popular, attempts to trim the size of the state are misguided. In the last few months, he's taken a break from criticizing the war in Iraq to write almost exclusively about social security. It's worth examining what he's said, so that *The Tech* can help counterbalance whatever influence the *New York Times* has on national opinion.

Proponents and opponents of privatization agree on these basics: by instituting a pension plan program, the government has made promises to pay individuals during retirement, funded by taxes on labor. The program has promised to pay out \$10 trillion (in present value) more than it will receive in the future. The only questions now on the table are the following. How should we pay that debt? This is a question of efficient public finance. This is the question Krugman discusses almost exclusively, berating the Bush administration for their plan to borrow the needed funds. The other question is, given that we need a national retirement plan, how should we structure it? Hopefully, everyone can agree that a plan that promises to pay \$10 trillion more than its revenue is not a good plan. Krugman never discusses this topic and fails to note that the Bush plan solves this structural problem. Let's look at Krugman's thoughts, column by column, on this topic.

On Dec. 7, Krugman returned early from sabbatical to begin writing about social security. Here, he proposed a means of public finance for our debt, saying that new taxes of about a half percent of GDP would save social security for another century or so. But more taxes don't address the structural problems with the program, they just prolong its life and invite problems later. Krugman helpfully reminded us

here that this cost is a bit "less than we're currently spending in Iraq," as if this is to be of comfort.

On Dec. 10, Krugman complained that the Bush plan would have the government borrow money to pay for current retiree costs. If people were allowed to divert their payroll taxes into private accounts, there would be less money available to pay current retirees. Recalling our initial framework, his complaint is about that first question — that such borrowing would be inefficient public finance. He forgot the second question. The Bush plan would make it impossible for the government to accumulate such debts in the future.

On Dec. 17, Krugman took a shotgun survey of other countries' experience with privatization, and on Jan. 14, he wrote in more depth about the British experience. The major newspapers have made this comparative analysis repeatedly, and depending on who's writing the article, one can think privatization is a recipe for disaster or an economic miracle cure. Here, Krugman paints a picture of economic disaster. Unfortunately, Krugman's position here — that it is theoretically impossible for individuals to save money now to spend later — is just not tenable.

On Jan. 4, 2005, Krugman made the case that social security is stronger than we give it credit for, since it has a trust fund that will last until 2042, because social security taxes have generated revenue in excess of expenses. Krugman really leaves the realm of candid debate here. The government doesn't save the money given it in payroll taxes for our retirement. It's spent as if it was general income. Remember all of those massive surpluses that we had during the Clinton years? If the money from social security taxes had been set aside for retirement instead of counted as general revenue, those surpluses would have been deficits. Clinton only ran surpluses by robbing our retirement accounts. (He's not alone. Everyone does it, G.W.B. included.) Krugman punts on this point, declaring that the government will pay

back the money spent, somehow. Yet again, this is a question of efficient public finance, not program structure.

On Jan. 7, Krugman took a break to write about how much he doesn't like Republicans in general, from Alberto Gonzales to Don Rumsfeld.

On Jan. 21, he resumed discussion of social security, repeating the complaint that borrowing money to pay transition costs is inefficient public finance. In this column, he noted that some privatizers propose to raise taxes to pay transition costs, and characterizes that idea as absurd, saying that it is wishing for "large sums [of money to be] shipped in from an undisclosed location." The irony is that in most of his other columns, he himself proposes to raise taxes to pay for social security debts. Again, he ignores the fact that privatization fixes the structure of a retirement system, leaving citizens with assets instead of spending promises.

On Jan. 25, Krugman attacked Alan Greenspan, one of the best guardians of the Federal Reserve in history, as a "Bush yes-man" for his belief that lower taxes coupled with less government spending is a good idea. On Feb. 1, he contended that stock market growth will not be high enough to make a private scheme viable. If the economy and stock market aren't growing enough to support a private retirement scheme, then there's not enough growth to support a public one. Then, taxes need be continually raised to keep paying retirees; this is what Krugman and defenders of the current system essentially propose. Taking this path puts the nation on a downward spiral: higher taxes slow future economic growth, necessitating even higher taxes to pay retirees. It's a recipe for the economic decline of the West and is currently underway here and in Europe.

On Jan. 28, Krugman takes time to discuss race and retirement. A system with personal accounts means that if you die, you can bequeath the account you have saved. Privatizers point out that since black people have a

shorter average lifespan than whites, they get the short end of the stick, paying taxes all their lives but receiving fewer benefits. Krugman says that blacks generally get about two fewer years of life in retirement than whites. Two years isn't that much, he says, so blacks are fine under the current system.

On Feb. 4, Krugman attacks the privatized system because it has no net effect on social security finances if returns on private accounts are only three percent, a lower estimate than anyone (including Krugman) makes. Because there might be a net neutral effect, he says, we shouldn't privatize. Here, he calls social security "America's most successful government program." This is a program that has promised people \$10 trillion more than it will receive in revenue. Standards for success must be different at Princeton.

After all of this, Krugman's sole coherent complaint is that the financing measures proposed to pay social security debt are the wrong ones. But on Mar. 1, Krugman made a new complaint: even if we raise taxes, he says, we shouldn't have private accounts, because that would do nothing to help with the costs of Medicaid and the budget deficit. These are both incorrect, since having private accounts would constrain future deficits, and an irrelevant conflation, like saying that putting out a fire won't fix our broken leg. Both are things we should do.

Because he opposes borrowing, Krugman's position is necessarily that debt should be paid not later, with efficient public finance, but now, with the highly regressive social security tax, which falls disproportionately on the working poor. Never does he discuss how we should design a national retirement system, making his analysis unacceptably incomplete, regardless of the reader's political persuasion. Krugman once said that when trying to explain a policy or idea, a good method is to "find an influential person who is saying something quite silly because he does not grasp the idea." On that final point, perhaps he's right.

Who Can Best Improve the UA?

Christopher L. Smith

That is a very complex question not easily answered. The query definitely found no resolution through the rhetoric of the similarly

Letter

entitled editorial that appeared in last Friday's *Tech*. Portions of the article laid a foundation of an argument on the behalf of one ticket. However, the majority of those arguments lacked any detailed support or backing.

One of the early points of the article refers to an obvious difference between the two tickets. While Calvin Sizer and Bryan Owens have significant experience working with the UA, that of their competitors is limited to Jessica Lowell's position of East Campus UA Senator. The writer states that this difference qualifies John Cloutier and Jessica Lowell as an "outsider" team. However, one must ask, "Of what group are they outcasts?" This statement could not refer to the UA itself, because as a senator, Lowell is just as much involved in the Undergraduate Association as Sizer. The term

"outsider" could not point to Cloutier as a lone representative of FSILG's at the Institute, because Owens is also a member of the IFC.

The writer also declares that the experience of Sizer and Owens cannot "be expected to fully prepare the candidates for the offices they seek." Conversely, would a lack of experience not leave the other candidates at an even greater loss? The article admits that Cloutier and Lowell would "take a while to get rolling ..." But how long would their familiarization take? The position of UA president is only two semesters. How much can they accomplish if the student body must wait for them to adjust to the operations of the UA?

The article makes continued mention of the necessity of change in the UA. The writer criticizes the enormity and lack of cohesion of the organization. Sizer and Owens are criticized for not acknowledging these problems. However, this is not actually true. One primary goal of Sizer and Owens is to develop a written agenda and mission statement that can bring together all groups that have a stake in the UA, e.g. Dormcon, IFC, and Panhel. Yet, how have Cloutier and Lowell promised to address this

issue? It is more likely that that the UA will become more convoluted as a result of Cloutier and Lowell's relative unfamiliarity.

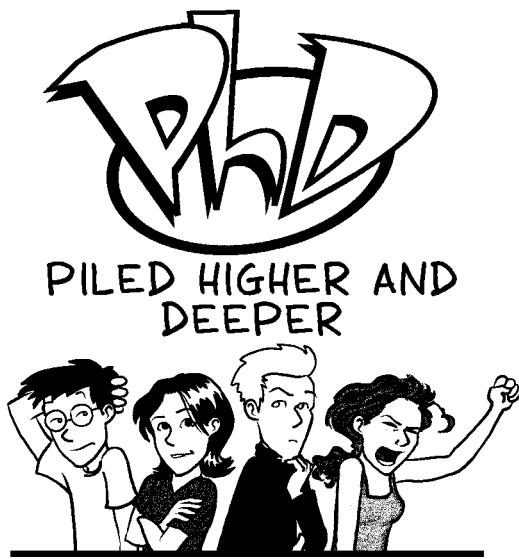
The largest problem I've noticed is not the size of the UA, but the lack of involvement of the general community. While both tickets aim to address the issue of communication, only the Sizer/Owens platform suggests a concrete change, e.g. the revival of weekly updates in *The Tech*. It has also been one of the primary goals of the Sizer/Owens campaign to "empower" the student body by allowing them to play a more active role in the operations of the UA.

The article suggests that through his UA experience, Sizer is less likely to enact the necessary changes in the organization. On the contrary, Sizer actually has experience with promoting positive change. During his sophomore year, he helped completely revitalize the Black Students' Union, serving as its Senior Co-Chair. This organization, once suffering from a major lack of student involvement, has now turned full circle. In the spring of 2003, general meetings were rarely populated by anyone other than executive board members.

By the fall of 2003, Sizer and his executive board had organized events, e.g. "The Holladay," that brought together hundreds of students from all over the Greater Boston college community.

In the latter portion of the article, Lowell is credited for her apparent passion and possible anger. Nevertheless, an equivalent level of passion can be seen in both Sizer and Owens. Their fervor however, is about making the UA better through positive reinforcement. Sizer's revamping of the Black Students' Union did not require him to hold contempt for the organization prior to his leadership.

We must all choose how we want to change the UA, if at all. But we owe it to ourselves to present sound arguments in regards to our choices. While any editorial portrays an opinion, it is also the job of such an argument to provide some basis for the claims that are made. The statements proposed in last Friday's article marginalized both platforms and used assumptions of a possible desire for change in the UA to place one ticket above the other. The Sizer/Owens ticket is more promising.



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FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 9

ACROSS

- 1 ___ and Gomorrah
- 6 Wound cover
- 10 Mennen after-shave
- 14 Writer Calvino
- 15 Whittle
- 16 Put one's foot down?
- 17 Municipal carpenter?
- 19 Mountain lion
- 20 Garlic shrimp
- 21 Belief without holidays?
- 23 Banana skins
- 26 Warmth
- 27 False logic
- 31 13th-century date
- 34 Expressions of delight
- 35 Alt.
- 36 U.S. family of artists
- 37 Kanga's kid
- 38 Rome's Celtic conquests

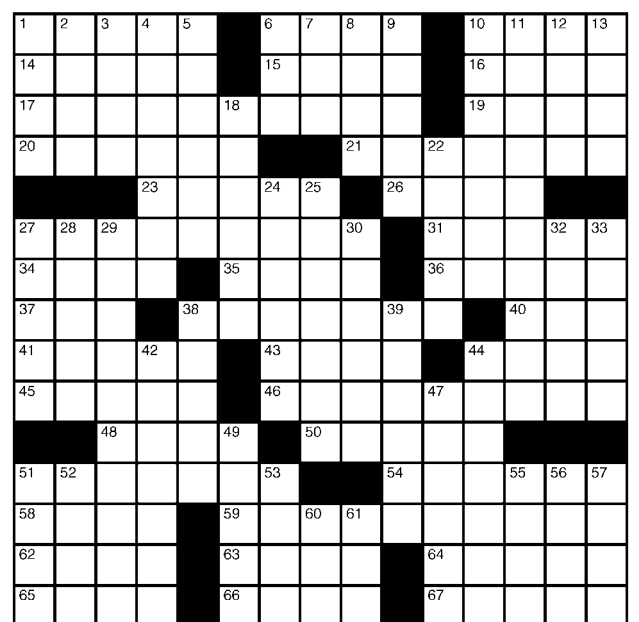
DOWN

- 40 Diarist Anais
- 41 Concise
- 43 Old slave
- 44 Lake formed by Hoover Dam
- 45 Simpson or Astaire
- 46 Natural singers
- 48 AMA members
- 50 Draws closer
- 51 Squirms
- 54 Puget Sound city
- 58 Tip
- 59 Flexible principle?
- 62 Fencing sword
- 63 Service station job?
- 64 Choose by vote
- 65 Boringly studious person
- 66 Type of curl
- 67 Quench, as thirst

DOWN

- 1 Attacks, dog-style
- 2 Of the ear
- 3 Computer info
- 4 Highest point in Greece
- 5 Swab wielder
- 6 Health center
- 7 Is able to
- 8 Field of expertise
- 9 Pullman bed
- 10 Free from strife
- 11 Pear punisher?
- 12 Male turkeys
- 13 Baldwin or Arkin
- 18 German songs
- 22 Rope-making plants
- 24 "___ of the Field"
- 25 University in Deland, Florida
- 27 Heart line

- 28 Called for the hook, perhaps
- 29 Coastal eatery?
- 30 Actress de Carlo
- 32 Homeric epic
- 33 Markets
- 38 Hardwood tree
- 39 Cancel out
- 42 Assigned a position
- 44 Name improperly
- 47 Clamps
- 49 Markets
- 51 Reporter's question
- 52 Harvestable
- 53 Dish with stock
- 55 Draft classification
- 56 Ridicule
- 57 Dated leader?
- 60 Japanese sash
- 61 Ready-go separator



Production

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Boston Ballet presents:

LA SYLPHIDE

Friday March 11, 8:00pm
7:00pm - "Informance"

an informal discussion with Boston Ballet principals

The Wang Theater
270 Tremont Street, Boston

Music: Herman Løvenskjold

Choreography: Sorella Englund after Auguste Bournonville

Set in the Scottish highlands with woodland fairies in white and men in tartans, La Sylphide weaves the timeless tale of a handsome Scot, his long-anticipated wedding, a conniving witch, and a beautiful sylph. Full of passion and deceit, Boston Ballet's La Sylphide is at once a love story and a drama - brought to life in artfully danced ensembles and breathtaking pas de deux. It thrills the senses, touches the heart, and promises to linger in the mind long after the last curtain call.

Presented by World Music & CRASHarts:

From Senegal

ORCHESTRA BAOBAB

Friday, March 18, 8:00pm

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville

Orchestra Baobab exploded onto the Dakar scene in 1970 and immediately became famous for their sublime Afro-Cuban arrangements. For more than a decade, they reigned supreme as the toast of Dakar high society and recorded more than 20 hit albums. After a 15-year hiatus, fellow compatriot Youssou N'Dour and Buena Vista Social Club's pioneer Nick Gold reunited these Senegalese elder statesmen. Last year's fabulous sold-out show absolutely confirmed that the band has lost none of their magic.

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T, W, and Th from 10am - 4pm
One ticket per valid MIT student ID

Papers Released On Media Lab in Ireland

Tensions Between Irish Government, MIT Contributed To Shutdown

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

Media Lab Europe in Dublin, Ireland, which was closed in January due to a funding shortfall, suffered from a rift between MIT and Irish government officials, according to a Feb. 24 article in *The Irish Times*.

Papers released under the Irish Freedom of Information Act on Feb. 23 describe both unpleasant working conditions at Media Lab Europe and details regarding a failed last-minute move to save the partnership, according to the article.

Alleged plan to save lab rejected

The Irish government reportedly proposed an agreement days prior to the announced closure, which was never signed, to provide Media Lab Europe with as much as three million euros per year. The agreement, however, would also have stipulated that MIT both export degree programs to the Irish laboratory and waive payments due from the Irish government, according to the article.

The recently released papers reportedly indicate that although Media Lab Europe had requested nine million euros in emergency funds last year, the Irish government had assessed the true funding need to be as high as 35 million euros.

Report critical of Media Lab

Among the recently released papers was a Strategic Plan from May 2004, which described working conditions at Media Lab Europe as "hell" and "chaos," with "inmates running the asylum," poor management, and conflicts between MIT and the Irish government, according to the article.

Media Lab Europe was founded in 2000 as the European arm of the MIT Media Lab, specializing in digital technologies, according to the Media Lab Europe Web site. It was closed on Jan. 14 because the Irish government and MIT could not come to an "agreement on a new funding model for the organization," per the Web site.

The lab was initially funded by the Irish government and was intended to become financially independent through funding from corporations. The failure of this to happen led to the generation of the Strategic Plan to the government and MIT last May, according to the Web site.

Media Lab Asia, located in India, was created in 2001 and closed in 2003.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

After 42 years of service, former track and field coach Gordon Kelly, pictured here in a January 2004 photo, retired last week from MIT. Over a period of ten years, Kelly amassed seven New England Division III indoor championships and six outdoor championships, and became one of the most respected coaches in the region. Kelly retired from coaching in 1990 after collecting his 12th New England Division III Coach of the Year honor and continued on to serve as an administrator for MIT's Athletic Department.

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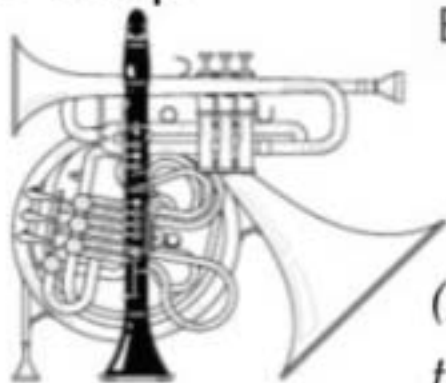
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(Ask about our upcoming tour to Washington DC)



Solution to KRT

Crossword from page 7

S	O	D	O	M	S	C	A	B	A	F	T	A	
I	T	A	L	O	P	A	R	E	T	R	O	D	
C	I	T	Y	P	L	A	N	E	R	P	U	M	A
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COMMITTEE ON CAMPUS RACE RELATIONS



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 uniqueness
 strength
 unity
 achievement
 struggle
 knowledge

CCRR week

March 5 - 12
 2005

Join the Committee on
 Campus Race Relations for a
 week of events and
 programs celebrating race
 and diversity.

Saturday, March 5

Haitian Drum and Dance

A performance presented as part of the Western Hemisphere Project's Series on Haiti.
 Room 50-354A, 2:00pm

Monday, March 7

Dinner and Discussion, Hosted by the Arab Students Association

McCormick Hall, 8:00pm

Tuesday, March 8

The Haitian Revolution, 1791-1804: Issues and Aftermath

Presented as part of the Western Hemisphere Project's Series on Haiti.
 Room 4-237, 7:00pm

The Color Purple

Film screening presented by Advocates for Awareness (AFA) and the CCRR.
 Room 2-105, 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 9

Professor Toni Lester

The author discusses her new book *Race and Sexuality: Charting Connections*. A Q&A session and informal reception follows the discussion.
 Room 14E-204, 5:30pm

Charles Holt in *Black Boy*

A one-man show depicting the troubles of African Americans in the South. Followed by a Q&A session.
 Morss Hall, 5:00pm

Even the Women Must Fight

Film screening and discussion on racial stereotypes of Vietnamese women.
 Room 6-120, 7:00pm

Thursday, March 10

Evelyn C. White, Author of *Alice Walker: A Life*

The author, with MIT Professor Helen Lee, discusses the life of the first Black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in fiction.
 Room 6-120, 5:00pm

Friday, March 11

Human Rights in Haiti

A talk presented as part of the Western Hemisphere Project's Series on Haiti.
 Room 4-237, 7:00pm

Saturday, March 12

Yo Soy Latina

A play about women trying to make sense of what it means to be a Latina in America.
 Room 10-250, 7:00pm



web.mit.edu/ccrr/ccrr/events.html

'Words & Music and Other Sonic Collaborations'



The MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, along with The Don Byron Quartet, held a concert entitled "Words & Music and Other Sonic Collaborations" last Friday, Mar. 4, in Kresge Auditorium. Clockwise from top left:

Matthew J. Abrahamson '06 plays the bass trombone.

Jay K. Cameron '05 jams on the piano.

Christina M. Bonebreak '05 plays the trumpet.

Special guest David Gilmore of The Don Byron Quartet picks his guitar.

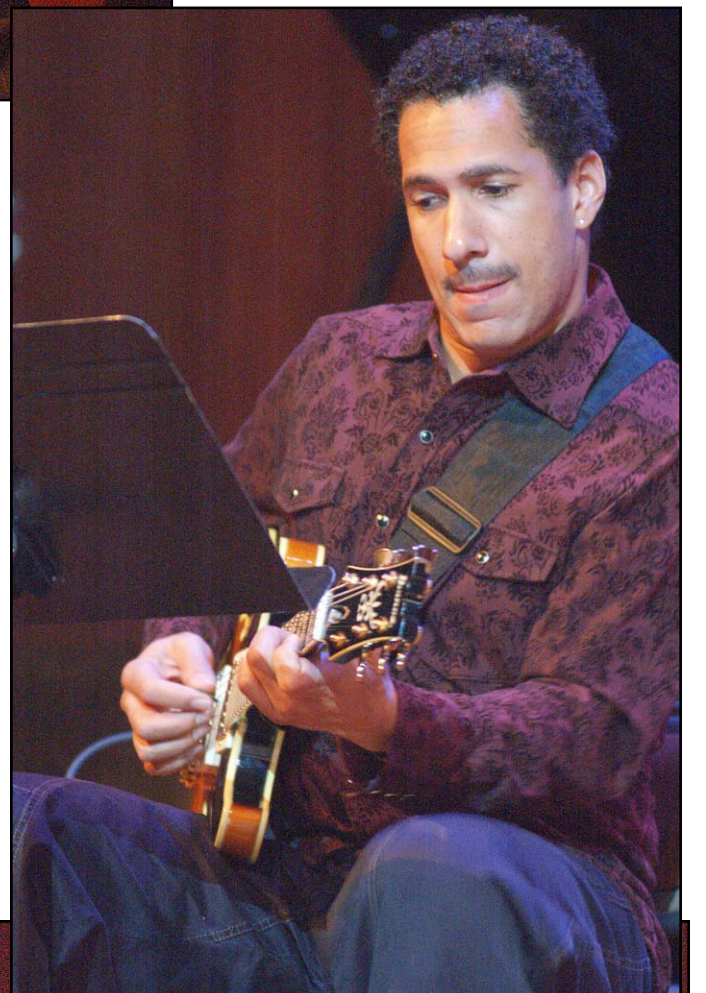
Special guest Lonnie Plaxico of The Don Byron Quartet fingers his bass.

To the accompaniment of The Don Byron Quartet, special guest Paul Auster reads two selections from his book of poetry.

Special guest Don Byron plays jazz clarinet.

James Wagner concentrates as he strokes his guitar.

Photography by Omari Stephens



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Harvard Business School Rejects Hacker Applicants

By Robert Weisman
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard Business School will reject the 119 applicants who hacked into the school's admissions site last week, the school's dean, Kim B. Clark, said Monday.

"This behavior is unethical at best — a serious breach of trust that can not be countered by rationalization," Clark said in a statement. "Any applicant found to have done so will not be admitted to this school."

A half dozen business schools were swamped by a wave of electronic intrusions Wednesday morning, after a computer hacker posted instructions on a BusinessWeek Online message board. Harvard is the second school to say definitively that it will deny the applications of proven hackers. The first was Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business, where only one admission file was targeted.

Until Monday, Harvard, which had branded the hacking as unethical from the start, stopped short of explicitly saying the hackers' applications would be rejected. Other victims, such as MIT's Sloan School of Management, Stanford's Graduate School of Business, Duke's Fuqua School of Business, and Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business similarly said they frown upon the hacking and are investigating, but have not said they will reject applications.

"Our mission is to educate principled leaders who make a difference in the world," Clark said in Monday's Harvard statement. "To achieve that, a person must have many skills and qualities, including the highest standards of integrity, sound judgment, and a strong moral compass — an intuitive sense of what is right and wrong. Those who have hacked into this Web site have failed to pass that test."

Clark, in an interview, said he decided over the weekend to make a stronger statement reaffirming the school's longstanding principles. While the initial statement seemed to imply the hackers would not be admitted, Clark said, "Looking back, we may have assumed too much about people's ability to read that statement."

In most cases, applicants from around the world saw only blank screens when they hacked into their files, but some Harvard applicants glimpsed preliminary decisions about whether they would be admitted. Other business schools said they had yet to post any information in their applicants' files.

Some business school administrators have said they were being cautious in their reaction because their software vendor, ApplyYourself Inc., can identify which admissions files were targeted but not who tried to access them. Theoretically, at least, a hacker might have been a spouse or parent who had access to the password and personal identification numbers given to a business school applicant.

Clark, who said Harvard was working with ApplyYourself to determine the hackers' identities, rejected that distinction. "We expect our applicants to be personally responsible for the access to the Web site, and for the identification and passwords they received," he said.

One admissions consultant, Sanford Kreisberg of Cambridge Essay Service, which helps students apply to elite US business schools, said he thought Harvard was overreacting.

"What they did was stupid, but that's all it was," Kreisberg said. "This seems needlessly harsh and rigid. I think it's inflexible, and it's wrong, and it doesn't treat individual circumstances."

Kreisberg said some applicants may have inadvertently tried to access the files, without realizing they were looking for confidential information, after they were e-mailed directions from other students who had copied them from the BusinessWeek message board.

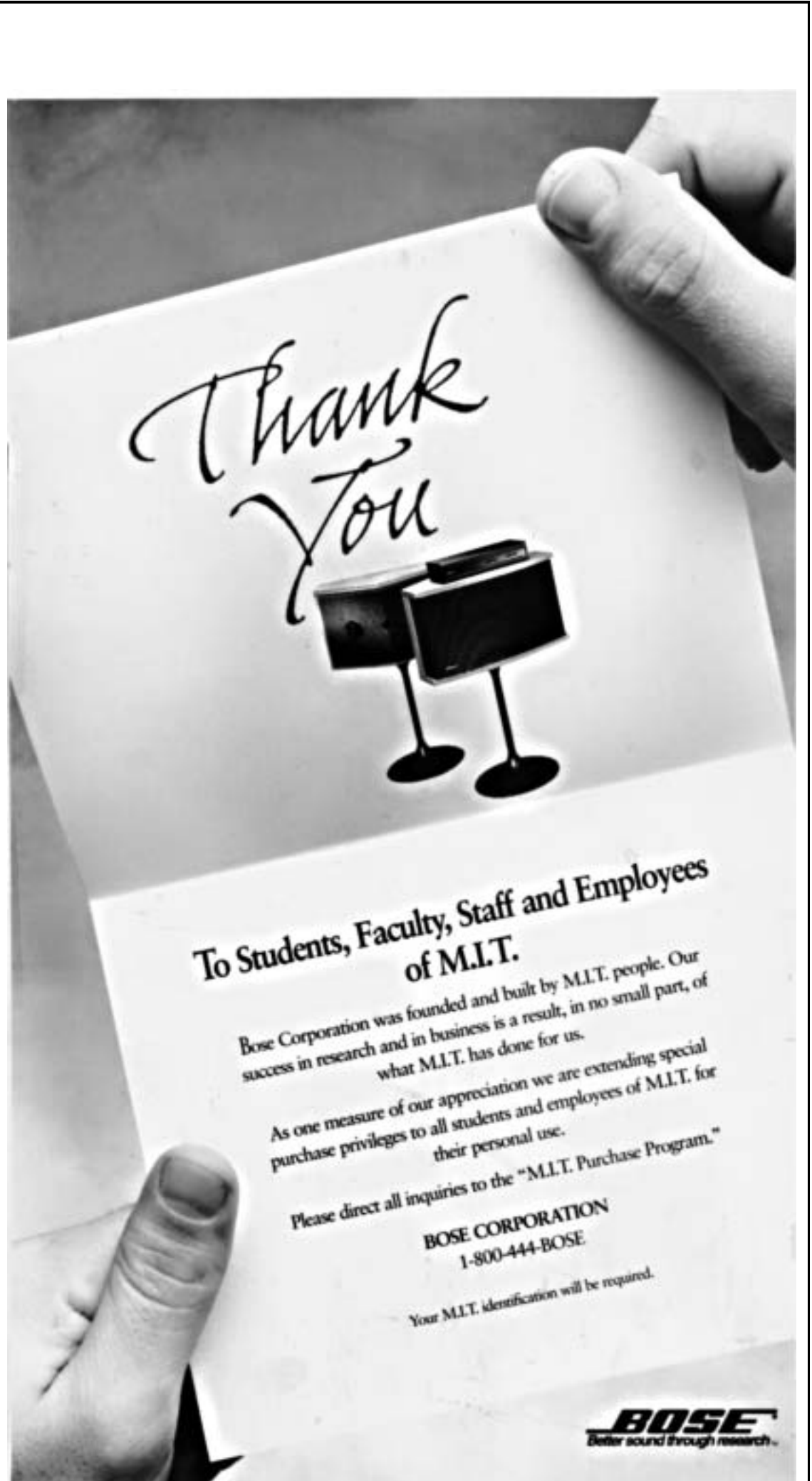
Clark said that rejected applicants won't be barred from reapplying in future years, but he said admissions officials would weigh the hacking incident in considering such applications. Only students expelled from the school are prohibited from reapplying, he said.

As to the possibility of applicants sending apologies, something discussed on message boards over the weekend, Clark said, "Whether apologies or other stuff happens, that is certainly something people can do. It may help them come to grips with what has happened. But for this year, and for now, our statement is very clear."



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Martin Marks (left) and Jonathan Guttmacher perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Sonata for Piano Duet in C Major, Movement II: Andante" at "A Celebration of Chris Pomiecko's Life." This ceremony was held in Killian Hall on Friday, Mar. 4 in honor of the late Chris Pomiecko. Marks and Guttmacher were close friends of Pomiecko.



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STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Elaine Ni '06 reaches for a backhand during the women's tennis spring opener at the James B. Carr Tennis Center on Saturday, Mar. 5. Ni and teammate Joanna L. MacKay '07 posted an 8-5 win in the first place doubles slot to help the women's team defeat Bates College, 5-4.



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Nicole L. Pershing '06, president of the Boston InterCollegiate Service Organization (BICSO), adds backing to a quilt at Project Blanket. Project Blanket was sponsored by BICSO to make blankets for traumatized children. The event was held in the Mezzanine Lounge on Saturday, Mar. 5 and Sunday, Mar. 6.

MIT Hillel Presents the third annual:

Latke - Hamentashen

guests include:



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 Professor Jeremy Wolfe
 Professor Marc Kastner
 Professor Donald Sadoway
 Professor Walter Lewin
 and others...



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MARCH 14th

10-250 7pm

this program is funded by the Peter deFioez fund for Humor, the UA Finboard, and the Abromowitz fund

MIT Ranked Eighth In University Giving, Harvard Ranks First

By Karen W. Arenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Contributions to colleges and universities rose \$800 million last year, to \$24.4 billion, led by Harvard and Stanford with more than \$500 million each, the Council for Aid to Education reported on Mar. 2.

The donations amounted to an increase of 3.4 percent for all colleges and universities for the year that ended June 30, 2004. After adjusting for inflation, the increase amounted to only 0.7 percent.

Harvard, which led the list for the 27th time in the past 36 years, received \$540 million, slightly below the \$545 million it received the previous year. Stanford saw its contributions climb eight percent last year, to \$524 million.

Cornell ranked third with \$386 million, a 22 percent increase. It was helped by a \$50 million bequest, a

university spokesman said.

Other universities that received more than \$300 million in charitable contributions last year were the University of Pennsylvania, \$333 million; the University of Southern California, \$322 million; and Johns Hopkins University, \$312 million. Also in the top 10 were Columbia, \$291 million; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, \$290 million; Yale, \$265 million; and the University of California, Los Angeles, \$262 million.

Alumni were the largest source of charitable giving last year, accounting for \$6.7 billion, or 28 percent of the total. Other big sources were foundations, \$6.2 billion; individual donors who were not alumni, \$5.2 billion; and corporations, \$4.4 billion.

Ann E. Kaplan, director of the council's annual survey on Voluntary Support of Education, said that giving by individual donors who were not alumni rose 22 percent last year.

"Individuals give to colleges and universities for a lot of reasons other than that they attended an institution," Ms. Kaplan said.

The report by the council, a unit of the RAND Corporation, said voluntary giving averaged seven percent of college and university expenditures last year, down from a high of eight percent in 2001. "Over all, the data suggest that voluntary support is not likely to offset declines in other funding sources," the report said.

José Bové

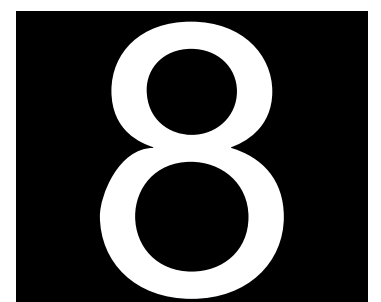
New Forms of Peasant Struggles Inspired by Civil Disobedience

TODAY
Tuesday, March 8
7 p.m. - Building 6-120

French farmer and activist José Bové is best known for dismantling a McDonalds in Millau, France, just days before it was to open in 1999. His campaign against hormone-treated beef, genetically-modified crops, the impact of faraway corporations on local habits, and the homogenization of food and eating, has stuck a chord with many around the world.



This event is co-sponsored by "Modern Times, Rural Places," the Program in Science, Technology and Society, the MIT-France program, the Department of Urban Studies, the Kelly-Douglas Fund, the MIT Free Radicals, and all of MIT.
 More Info: <http://web.mit.edu/history/>





Ask a MedLink

Need help to help

Dear MedLink: We are having a problem in our hall with a student we all know is bulimic. I am concerned for her health as well as for the health of all my hallmates. And we are disgusted when we hear her purging in the bathroom. This has been going on for some time. Is there any way we can help her find a cure? —**Concerned**

Dear Concerned: Your hallmate is very lucky to have someone like you who is concerned about her health. And so many people our age struggle with body image issues and eating disorders that it is really great to be able to answer a question on this topic.

I brought your concerns to Dr. Alexandra Beckett of MIT Medical's Mental Health Service. According to Dr. Beckett, your friend may be dealing with bulimia (the binge-purge syndrome) or she may have a kind of anorexia with bulimic symptoms. Purging after overeating may seem like a great way to eat as much as you want without gaining weight, and people often decide to try it "just this once." Unfortunately, says Dr. Beckett, once started, this routine can become ingrained. Fortunately, this disorder is treatable.

You may worry that your hallmate will be defensive, angry, or embarrassed if confronted. She might be, but even if she is not ready to seek help, it may be good for her to know you are concerned. Before talking with her, have some resources ready to share. You could start by speaking with the MedLink in your living group, your graduate resident tutor, or your housemaster. Clinicians at MIT Medical's Mental Health Service (3-2916) and health educators in the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness (3-1316) are also available to speak with you and offer advice. I wish you the best of luck in helping your hallmate. —**Pam**

Is my gum addiction harmful?

Dear MedLink: Is frequent gum chewing bad for you? —**Wintergreen Addict**

Dear WA: You're not the only gum-lover at MIT, so it's great that you asked this question. In search of an answer, I consulted MIT Medical's Dental Service chief Dr. Jay Robert Afrow, D.M.D., M.H.A., who told me that gum chewing is not such a bad addiction for most people and may, in fact, improve dental hygiene. "The action of chewing allows the gum to mechanically clean your teeth," he said. "It also stimulates increased saliva flow. Saliva is an important part of the body's resistance to tooth decay, and increasing flow will help to fight the decay process."

However, Afrow notes that only sugar-free gum has potential benefits. He recommends avoiding sugar-containing gum, which may increase tooth decay rates by providing oral bacteria with a long-lasting source of sugar. People with jaw problems should also avoid chewing gum, he said, as it may aggravate their symptoms.

Looks like you can enjoy your sugar-free Wintergreen without worries, which is welcome news for all of us frequent chewers! —**Judy '05**



Do you have a question?

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email: askamedlink@mit.edu

anonymous online form: <http://web.mit.edu/medlinks/www>

campus mail: Ask A MedLink, E23-405

We can't respond individually, but we'll answer as many questions as we can in this space. And you can always talk with a MedLink in person; see web.mit.edu/medlinks/www/ to find the MedLink(s) in your living group.



Hidden Warriors: Voices from the Ho Chi Minh Trail

Wed, March 9 * 7pm * 6-120

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MIT Committee on Campus Race Relations



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GIR Panel Aims to Make HASS Requirement Simpler

GIR, from Page 1

GIRs, "in the opinion of almost all Subcommittee members, the current six-subject Science Core is insufficient general preparation for our students."

Those opposed to the present requirement recommend "an increase in the number of quantitative subjects that comprise the Science Core," as either requirements or electives. Possible extensions to the present requirement include subjects in probability, statistics, computation, ordinary differential equations, linear algebra, and complex natural or engineering systems, according to the report.

The Task Force is "interested in increasing the flexibility of the science core," Silbey said. "How we do it is still on the table."

One idea is to expand the scope of the science core, with four required classes and two additional science requirements selected from a list of subjects, while another is to replace the two Restricted Electives in Science and Engineering with two prescribed subjects.

There is also strong interest in replacing the current laboratory requirement with a project-based experience, potentially in the first year, which would help increase students' excitement in their freshman year, Silbey said.

According to the draft Subcommittee report, "a balanced and well-integrated Science and Engineering Core and a mandatory project-based experience would substantially improve MIT undergraduate education."

The committee believes that it is important to "maintain the current rigor of the core, regardless of any other change," Silbey said.

HASS revisions considered

The "current HASS requirement is a complicated requirement" because "we are trying to do a lot," said Professor of Political Science Charles Stewart III, a member of the task force. As a result, the HASS requirement is "just a mess" and like "a three-ring circus," Stewart said.

There have been many simplification proposals over the years, Stewart said.

One idea under consideration is to provide a common HASS experience for students. Students could be given the choice of small classes in five categories, such as revolution, love, creativity, democracy, and Shakespeare, Stewart said.

Options being considered in relation to this idea include the duration of the classes (one semester or two), whether Communication Intensive elements would be embedded in the classes, and whether this sort of requirement would ensure a sufficient breadth of experience to eliminate the HASS-Distribution requirement.

This plan "looks sort of like a unified freshman experience," Stewart said, but still permits flexibility.

"Would MIT be better if there was this extra common experience?" Stewart asked. "It's not clear this would be the right thing to do," he said.

Report suggests changes

A draft report from the Task

Force Subcommittee on Balancing the Majors and the GIRs proposes additional recommendations: encouraging interdisciplinary education with new degree plans, initiating a freshman design project, advocating international educational experiences, better introducing freshmen to the goals of an MIT education, improving academic and career advising, stipulating that departmental programs look at how science and engineering affect society, and rethinking the use of advanced placement credit in core subjects.

To fulfill the recommendation of encouraging interdisciplinary education, one idea is to change the double major so that students must complete all the requirements for both majors, but no additional units, as the current system requires. Another possibility would be a dual or combined degree, which would include reduced

requirements for both degree programs, as well as an interdisciplinary capstone project.

The report also suggests that MIT set up a "central office to coordinate and expand the opportunities for students to study or intern abroad."

Framing the goals

According to a document handed out at the presentation, "in the early stages of its deliberations, the Task Force developed a set of working principles about MIT's educational philosophy in order to frame its review of the General Institute Requirements."

The Task Force's draft goal statement is the following: "an MIT education is one grounded in science and technology that ignites a passion for learning, provides the intellectual and personal foundations for future development, and illuminates the breadth,

depth and diversity of human knowledge and experience, in order to enable each student to develop a personal, coherent intellectual identity."

The document also lists the expectations of the faculty for an MIT undergraduate education as: a persistent passion for learning, intellectual diversity, an innovative approach to core knowledge, collaborative learning, and education for responsible leadership.

Silbey, who called his presentation on Friday an effort to be "provocative," expects to receive more suggestions from the MIT community. "You open up the box, and people start thinking about it," he said.

No entire draft has been released, and no date has been set for a release, said Anne McLeod, staff associate for the office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education.

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Mao Remembered As Kind, Generous

Mao, from Page 1

Mao's friends and Chinese colleagues in the mathematics department had first suggested holding a fundraiser for his parents, but Mao's parents and wife told Hu that he was a considerate person who would not have wanted to burden his friends, Hu said. However, they mentioned Mao's wish to support scholars from his high school in China, and contributions in his memory will likely be directed there. Hu has created a memorial Web site which can be found at <http://zhenxiu-mao.memory-of.com>.

On the Web site, Mao's parents posted a message in Chinese expressing their sorrow at his passing and praising his unselfishness, successes, and dedication to his family.

Mao is survived by his wife, Jingqi Sun, parents Peijing Mao and Shui Liu, and brother Zhenyi Mao, all of whom live in China, said Hu, a member of the Chinese Students & Scholars Association. Mao had married Sun last summer, He said.

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CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Rodney J. Vargas from the Duke Organization for Tropical Studies describes the details about studying abroad to Lynn Ly Ngo '06 at the "First Ever [MIT] Study Abroad Fair." The fair, organized by the Undergraduate Association Committee on Student Life, was held in La Sala de Puer to Rico in the student center on Friday, Mar. 4.

Call for Nominations! 2005 Student Art Awards

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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.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html>

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<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html>

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 18, 2005 to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205
cohen@media.mit.edu

IS&T Critical Of Hacker

Athena, from Page 1

Schiller confirmed that the perpetrator is a student.

IS&T questions hacker's motives

Though the hacker's e-mail stated that an effort was made "to point out these insecurities in a rather non-destructive way," it did admit causing "a lot of inconvenience for a lot of people" that could have been reduced with better planning.

"However, I think that a benign compromise of this scale is the only way the administrators of the Athena system can be convinced to change their security policy," the e-mail stated.

Schiller criticized the individual's attitude, saying it is wrong to do something just because one might get away with it, and also questioned the sincerity of the individual's claim.

"It's a bogus argument," Schiller said, arguing that if the individual had really felt there was a problem with security, the person should have approached someone in IS&T.

"The reality is, if you have physical control of the workstation, then you can do basically anything with it," Schiller said.

Schiller also said that the security of public workstations is "a problem that's going to go away on its own" as public workstations are replaced in a shift to create public work areas.

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Nobel Laureate Wilczek Speaks On Strangeness of the Universe

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

MIT Professor and 2004 Nobel Laureate in Physics Frank Wilczek spoke to a packed audience at Kresge Auditorium yesterday in a talk entitled "The Universe in a Strange Place."

Dressed characteristically in a black tee shirt and jacket, Wilczek spoke of strange, yet beautiful physics of the world as understood by physicists today, and he suggested ways for physicists to continue their struggle to understand such mysteries as dark matter and dark energy.

Mass as "a music of the void"

Much of the modern physics understood today is "strange in many ways," Wilczek said. He suggested, however, that insight can be gained by disposing of the traditional notions of particles and instead considering wave patterns, and even the tones of musical instruments.

"The equations of musical instruments are exactly the equations one encounters when describing what happens inside hydrogen atoms according to the modern quantum theory," Wilczek said.

This musical analogy can be extended to mass as well, Wilczek said. Mass perplexes physicists, he said, since nucleons with mass such as protons and neutrons are composed of nearly massless quarks and massless gluons.

Rewriting Einstein's fundamental equation as mass being equal to energy divided by the square of the speed of light, however, "suggests the possibility of explaining mass purely in terms of energy," and was the form in which Einstein initially wrote his famous equation, Wilczek said.

According to quantum field theory, "what appears to us as empty space is in reality a wildly dynamical medium" with short-lived "virtual particles" created as a consequence

of an uncertainty in energy and time interacting with real particles.

The "different particles we observe correspond to different vibration patterns in this dynamical void," and stable particles "are just vibration patterns that have a particularly long lifetime," he said.

Furthermore, expressing energy in terms of frequency generates a unique mapping between a mass and an associated frequency. This suggests the masses of particles "are the tones, the frequencies of these vibration patterns in the dynamical void," Wilczek said.

"There's a music of the void" in the table of particle masses, he said.

Experiment shows quarks, gluons

Wilczek spoke about experiments conducted at CERN European Laboratory for Particle Physics that verify the quark and gluon model.

The principle of asymptotic freedom states that "radiation events that significantly change the overall flow of energy and momentum are very rare," while events that do not change the flow of energy and momentum are more common, Wilczek said.

A picture showing two jets, groups of particles moving in the same direction, emerging from a collision of particles, indicates quarks and anti-quarks, whereas a picture with three jets emerging indicates the presence of gluons, which perturb the energy and momentum flows, as well.

By looking at the probability distributions of the numbers of jets, their angles, and energies as a function of the initial annihilation energy, physicists can rigorously test their theories, and have been able to verify gluons and quarks as a "complete description," Wilczek said.

In addition, the mere fact "that you don't get the same thing coming out every time even though you put

the time thing in" reflects the probabilistic nature of quantum mechanics, he said.

"We still have a lot to learn"

Wilczek discussed not only the mysterious physics now understood, but also the phenomena whose mysteries have yet to be decoded, as well as ways that physicists might begin to understand these phenomena.

First and foremost in the realm of the explained is cosmology, a field in which "we don't know what's going on," Wilczek said.

Astronomers have calculated that only five percent of matter in the universe is the ordinary matter that we understand. Twenty-five percent is "dark matter," something we can only detect by its gravitational influence on ordinary matter, and which exists in clumps. The remaining seventy percent is "dark energy," which is evenly spread, as if it were "an intrinsic property of space and time," Wilczek said. The dark energy exerts a negative pressure, and is the reason for the accelerating expansion of the universe, Wilczek said.

In order to attack such problems as dark energy, Wilczek suggested that physicists "try to improve the equations of the part of physics we know," and "extend the amount of symmetry." Symmetric theories developed so far provide possible explanations for dark matter, Wilczek said.

Wilczek's talk led up to three so-called lessons he has gleaned from physics. Firstly, "if we work to understand, then we can understand," as evidenced by the studies of the strong interaction. Secondly, "the part of the world we understand is by any standard strange, and I think quite beautiful." Finally, Wilczek said, "We still have a lot to learn."

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LIANG HONG

Students build a gigantic four-sectioned snowman on Briggs Field last Saturday afternoon. Unseasonably cold temperatures and heavy precipitation in the past week brought a thick layer of snow to MIT.

SPORTS

Injured, Ill Women's Gymnastics Team Places Last

By Travis Johnson
STAFF WRITER

MIT Women's Gymnastics struggled against illness and injury to a last place finish in a quad meet Saturday.

Head Coach Jennifer Miller-McEachern wasn't at all disappointed afterwards. "I am so proud of how this team has come together and focused on being a unit. It is the key to the success they keep having despite the obstacles of injuries and illness," she said.

With regular contributors Francesca D. DeMeo '06 out of town and Sarah N. Trowbridge '08 only able to compete in one of the four events, the Engineers still registered a respectable 181.6, with an average score of 9.08.

The Engineers started on the beam, which is always challenging but particularly tough without a few events to warm up. Jennifer E. Sauchuk '06 was unfazed and turned in a meet best 9.6.

The rest of the team wasn't quite as successful, as four out of six gymnasts fell off at least once. As Assistant Coach Eduardo Ovalle said, "We still need to do more work to get comfortable with beam as a first event. We are a very capable team on beam, but not having Francesca and Sarah this meet was a big loss."

MIT moved on to the floor exercise with a running score of 45.15, as compared to then-leader SUNY-Rockport, who had 47.4. With four of the five team members above a 9.0, the Engineers moved up to third place in the meet, bucking for second with Ithaca College.

Next was the vault, an event that MIT has been a bit inconsistent with all season. A major highlight of the event was when Chandler E. Hatton '06 stuck the landing on a very difficult and elegant vault, good for 9.375 and a big reaction from both the crowd and her teammates.

Four out of five team members had excellent vaults, which netted

the third highest score on the vault for the team all season. Unfortunately for MIT Lara L. Hershcovitch '07, who isn't a regular on the vault, completed a relatively simple jump that was only good for an 8.15 and put MIT in last place for good.

Finally, the Engineers went to the bars, where Merritt S. Tam '05 earned a 9.375 when she "did a Higgins roll to a Jaeger (which is a front flip, re-grasp the bar) followed by a Pak Salto (which is a flip from high bar to low bar)," as described by Ovalle.

Tam was honored before the meet along with fellow senior Whitney E. Watson '05 by a train of appreciators including coaches, assistants, teammates, and members of the men's team.

Some fans from opposing teams felt the tribute went on a bit long, to

which Miller said, "I say that person hasn't had the pleasure of working with Merritt Tam or Whitney Watson."

The final tally for the afternoon was SUNY-Brockport 184.650, Ithaca 184.525, West Chester University 182.825, and MIT 181.6.

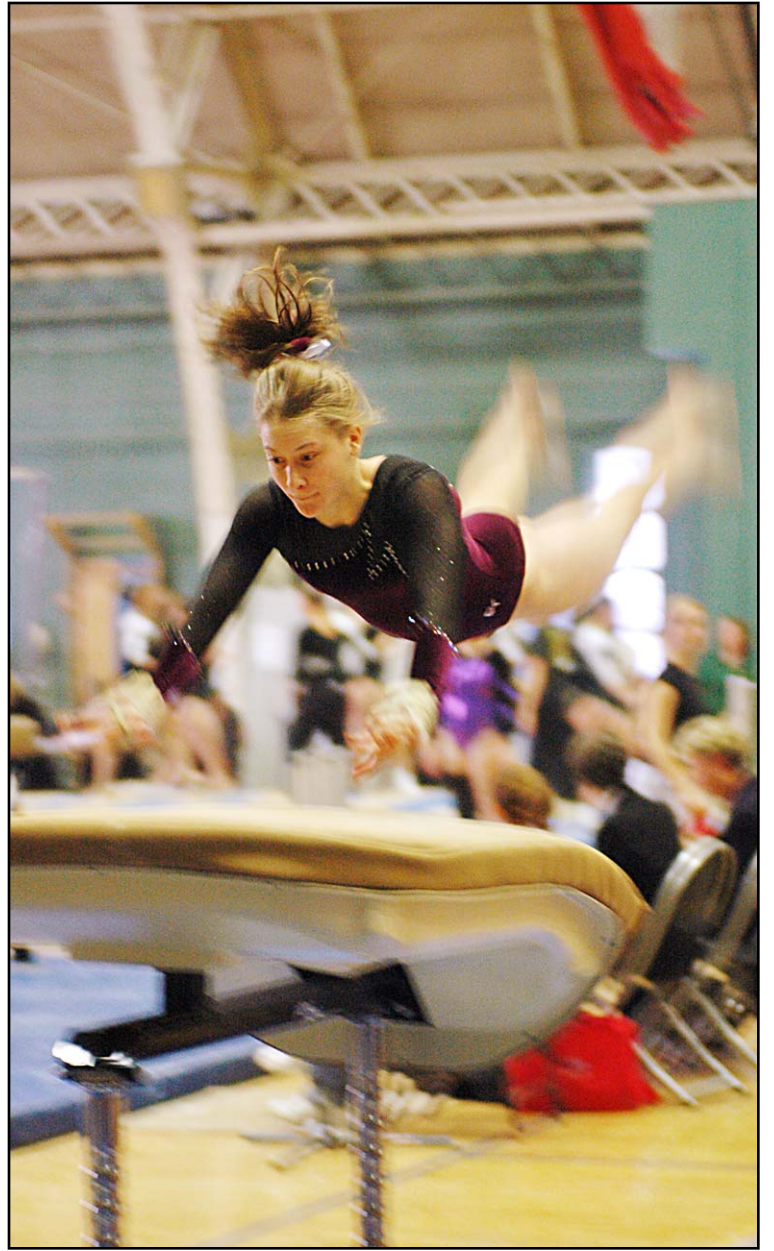


OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

The MIT Women's gymnastics team hosted a meet last Saturday, Mar. 5, in du Pont Gymnasium, welcoming teams from Ithaca College, West Chester University, and SUNY Brockport.

(above left) Merritt S. Tam '05 holds a pose during her balance beam routine.

(above right) Chandler E. Hatton '06 springs toward the vault table.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, March 9

Varsity Men's Volleyball vs. Mount Ida College
Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.

Tiger Shows His 'A Game' Is Back In Magnificent Duel against Phil

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

Remember when I said that Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson would go head to head this year? I didn't think it would be this early in the year and this dramatic.

But what a gift the world of golf received at the Ford Championship at Doral on Sunday. Not since the duel between Tiger and Vijay Singh for ranking as Golf's number one player have we seen a match up of this proportion. And not since Tiger versus Sergio Garcia in 1999 have we seen two such popular players go at it.

This time, the favorite took home the prize. Tiger is clearly back with his A game: he finished the tournament with scores of 63 and 66. That's a sensational 15 under par on the weekend. And by the way, he now has the scoring record at Doral with his 24 under par total.

Give Phil credit. After Tiger's eagle at the 12th hole, it looked as though El Tigre was going to run away with the tournament. But Phil came back with back to back birdies. Unfortunately, a dagger was hammered into his game when he bogied the 16th. He could have taken the lead when Tiger bogied the same hole, but Phil faltered as well.

Then, Phil made his best pitch shot of the day on the Blue Monster while trying to take the match to extra holes on the 18th. Until it lipped out gently, fans thought there was a possibility that the day would never end and we would get bonus golf.

I wish it never did end.

Jack Nicklaus and Arnie Palmer. Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. The Yankees and the Red Sox. Now we can add Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson to that list. But the rivalry may not last as long as we would like. Tiger will surely go on a winning streak once again. Had the Nissan Open not ended early, Tiger would have won that one too, I'm sure. He has brought back the power, the focus, and his drive to win.

The main difference between this Tiger and the Tiger of old is that he doesn't fall back too far on the weekdays. You don't see Tiger charging up the leader board on Sunday anymore, because he is already there. Tiger's major problem in the past was that he would simply play well enough to make cuts, and then start to do his real work when Saturday and Sunday came around. This Tiger jumps up quickly and then stays there.

Think about how many comeback victories Tiger has had in the past couple of years. Now imagine if he hadn't started so far back to

begin with. He would have won those tournaments with ease. Pretty scary thought, right?

Now Tiger understands that bringing his A game for two days doesn't balance out his D game for the other two. The tour has gotten better, mostly thanks to the standard he set, and now he too must improve.

Tiger's improvement came at the expense of a two year hard nosedive in the world rankings' points. But Tiger is once again number one in the world. It just feels right to call him the top player in the world once again.

It's pretty clear Tiger has really brought back his drive to win. The bright red shirt was back on Sunday. The worn hat that was almost "Steve Kline-ish" arrived on the scene. But the most telling sign on Sunday was the look of determination on Tiger's face when he made the putt on the 17th green.

That determination seems to be the big difference between Tiger and Phil. One is happy to be playing golf, while the other is not happy even if he eagles every hole that he plays. The people's choice versus the perfectionist. Tiger doesn't want to win, he wants to dominate. That's why he's one of the best athletes ever, and that's why he will be the golfer to ultimately break Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 Major victories.

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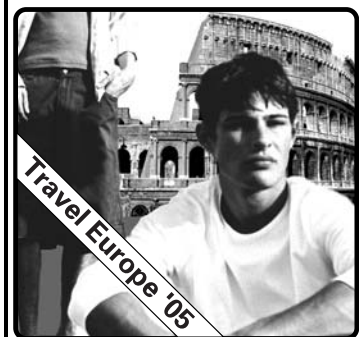
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