



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

The MIT Chorallaries entertain students recently admitted to MIT at a reception in San Diego last Thursday, March 24.

Fabulous to Perform For Spring Weekend

By Hanhan Wang

Rap artists Fabulous and Lloyd Banks will co-headline MIT's annual Spring Weekend Concert this year.

The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 22, in the Johnson Athletic Center. The concert is open to MIT and other colleges around the area and will kick off the weekend's entertainment lineup.

A Spring Weekend Committee of 15 students has been planning Spring Weekend since fall. In previous years, the committee surveyed students about their music preferences. The rock and hip-hop genres topped the preferences every year.

"Every year, the survey ended up being 50-50," said Shawna M. Cooper-Gibson, head administrator for Spring Weekend, so the committee decided to alternate band genres

each year.

The Spring Weekend committee tries to get bands on the rising road to fame. "This year, we had two that weren't as big as one large band," said Cooper-Gibson.

Fabulous, popular for his rap hits "Breathe," "Tit 4 Tat," and "Baby," has been rhyming since high school. After mixtape star DJ Clue heard Fabulous's work, he immediately signed Fabulous to his Desert Storm imprint. Fabulous' fame quickly took off from there, producing songs like "In the Hood," "Take You Home," and "We Don't Give."

"I'm actually more excited about Lloyd Banks — he's part of G-Unit," Qi Feng '05 said. Lloyd Banks was anointed as 2003's Mixtape Artist of the Year due to his work on G-Unit mixtapes and his Money in the Bank series. Lloyd

Spring Weekend, Page 15

MIT Places First in Putnam Again

By Jenny Zhang
NEWS EDITOR

For a second consecutive year, MIT has placed first in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. The MIT team, selected by mathematics professors Hartley Rogers Jr. and Richard P. Stanley before the exam was taken, consisted of Reid W. Barton '05, Daniel M. Kane '07, and Emanuel I. Stoica '05.

Three MIT students, Barton, Kane, and Valdimir V. Barzov '06, placed among the top five scorers, earning them each \$2,500 and recognition as Putnam Fellows. The MIT mathematics department will receive an award of \$25,000, and each of the three team members will receive \$1,000. Team ranks are determined by the sum of the scores of the three pre-selected members.

The next highest-scoring teams

were Princeton University, Duke University, University of Waterloo, and California Institute of Technology.

The annual Putnam exam, which is open to undergraduates in the United States and Canada, takes place on the first Saturday of December. It consists of two three-hour sections of six problems each and has now run for 65 years.

On the 2004 exam, more than half of the participants scored zero out of a possible 120 points on the exam. Rogers said the MIT median has typically been between 20 and 30.

MIT competitors used experience

The top MIT scorers said they did not practice specifically for the exam, but instead relied on experience.

Kane, who was also a Fellow and MIT team member for the 2003

exam, said he did not prepare specifically this year, but 18.S34, Mathematical Problem Solving, a freshman mathematical problem solving seminar he took last year, was helpful.

In addition, Kane said, his high school International Mathematics Olympiad experience was useful because many of the problems were similar.

He advised students interested in participating in Putnam to do problems from previous exams and look at some problem-solving books for general techniques.

Kane said he had not made particular plans for using his reward, but would be "putting the money in the bank."

Barzov, however, had more immediate plans for his reward; he

Putnam, Page 13

OCW Continues Growing, Sharing MIT's Materials

By Jiao Wang
STAFF REPORTER

A 22-year old Vietnamese man steers his scooter to the front of a tattered house, climbs flights of stairs,

and reaches a computer, which displays

lecture two of Laboratory in Software Engineering (6.170). It is through these lectures that Lam Vi Quoc sharpened his programming skills enough to develop a program that allowed local residents to find bus routes by destination.

Today, educators and learners like Quoc from around the world

benefit from MIT's OpenCourseWare program. The initiative, begun in 2001, aims to put all of MIT's 1800 subject offerings on the Web by 2007.

The project, which has already published more than 900 subjects, will publish 175 new classes over the course of the next month, which will push the total number of available classes to almost 1100, according to the March OCW newsletter.

Intellectual philanthropy

The OCW concept can be seen as

OCW, Page 18

Winter Shuttle Service Extended, Improvements Planned for SafeRide

By Brian C. Keegan
STAFF REPORTER

An ad-hoc student committee is addressing concerns regarding SafeRide, and the Parking and Transportation Office is planning on upgrading its fleet of shuttles.

Committee addresses concerns

Ellen Sojka '08, co-chair for an ad-hoc student committee on SafeRide, said there are a number of problems that the committee is trying to address with the administration.

Among the priorities listed on a document obtained from Sojka were more accurate online tracking, extending the Boston Winter Shuttle service in IAP, rerouting or optimizing routes, increasing shuttle capacity, and a signaling system that notifies drivers if there are riders waiting at a location.

"We're not sure how much resistance we're going to get from the administration, but a lot of these

problems could be fixed inexpensively," she said. "We're trying to make SafeRide safe again."

The committee was initially started by the Panhellenic Association and includes representatives from the five sororities, the Women's Independent Living Group, the Interfraternity Council, and the Undergraduate Association. Sojka said the committee remains open to suggestions and hopes to make recommendations to the administration by the end of the term.

Major changes for shuttle fleet

The Parking and Transportation Office is planning to purchase or lease several new buses in order to upgrade the entire fleet over the next two summers. The changes include heavier duty and larger capacity buses and come as a result of increasing numbers of riders and services provided by the fleet.

SafeRide, Page 16



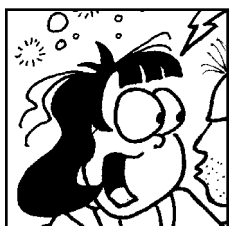
YUN WU—THE TECH

Students wait to board a crowded shuttle at 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

CAMPUS LIFE

Wonder what it's like in a strip club?

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Comics

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NEWS

Three MIT Students Win Barry Goldwater Scholarships

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WORLD & NATION

Report Cites Flaws in CIA Assessment of Saddam

By David E. Sanger and Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The final report of a presidential commission studying American intelligence failures regarding illicit weapons includes a searing critique of how the CIA and other agencies never properly assessed Saddam Hussein's political maneuverings or the possibility that he no longer had weapon stockpiles, according to officials who have seen the report's executive summary.

The report also proposes broad changes in the sharing of information among intelligence agencies that go well beyond the legislation passed by Congress late last year creating a director of national intelligence to coordinate action among all 15 intelligence agencies. Those recommendations are likely to figure prominently in the confirmation hearings of John Negroponte, whom the president has nominated to be national intelligence director. Those hearings are scheduled to begin April 12. The report particularly singles out the Central Intelligence Agency under its former director, George Tenet, but also includes what one senior official called "a hearty condemnation" of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, two of the largest intelligence agencies.

Palestinians Smuggle Anti-Aircraft Missiles into Gaza, Israeli

By Steven Erlanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Palestinians have smuggled several Strela shoulder-fired missiles, which pose a threat to Israeli aircraft, into the Gaza Strip with the help of members of the Palestinian military intelligence agency, Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said in an interview on Sunday night.

"This crosses a red line for us," Mofaz said, speaking in his Tel Aviv office. He said he had ordered the Israeli commander in Gaza, Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, to meet with Moussa Arafat, chief of the intelligence unit, "and demand that they better put their hands on the smugglers and the Strelas and hand them over to us."

The Strela anti-aircraft missiles, developed by the Soviet Union in the 1960s and then modernized, can be used against low-flying aircraft like the helicopters that are crucial for Israeli intelligence, especially in Gaza.

Most Israeli aircraft can deal with Strelas, said Iftah Shapir of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. But for Mofaz, a former military chief of staff, the Strelas are a telling example of how little the new Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, has been able to put his stamp on the competing Palestinian security services.

Medicare Applications Sent To Low-Income Americans

By Robert Pear

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration said Monday that it had sent the first of some 20 million applications to low-income people who might qualify for financial assistance with Medicare's new prescription drug benefit.

But lawyers and other advocates for low-income people said the form was so complex that they expected fewer than 5 percent of the people to respond. The value of the new assistance is substantial. The government will provide a 75 percent subsidy worth about \$1,250 a year for the basic drug benefit, plus an average of almost \$2,300 a year in extra assistance to people with low incomes.

The applications have been sent to Medicare beneficiaries in 42 ZIP codes in 21 states. The list of cities includes Bristol, Conn.; New York; Miami; Chicago; Las Vegas; and Honolulu.

Earthquake Hits Indonesia, No Major Tsunamis Reported

By Maria Newman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

An earthquake with a magnitude of 8.7 shook Indonesia Monday three months after a somewhat stronger quake triggered a tsunami that caused widespread devastation in the region and killed tens of thousands of people.

The U.S. Geological Survey said Monday's quake was centered about 125 miles west northwest of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra and began around 11 p.m. local time. Some reports put the duration at five minutes, others less.

While there were no reports so far of a major tsunami, officials in Indonesia said that there had already been "perhaps dozens" of people killed by the earthquake on land. The mayor of Gunungsitoli, the main town on Indonesia's Nias island, told a local television station that the quake had claimed several lives and destroyed hundreds of homes, according to Reuters.

"I can guarantee that dozens have died," said Agus Mendrofa, the deputy mayor of the town. "Gunungsitoli is now like a dead town. The situation here is in extreme panic."

The quake provoked a nervous reaction across western Indonesia, Sri

Lanka and coastal parts of Malaysia and Thailand, the areas devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

Sirens wailed and tens of thousands of people were evacuated after tsunami warnings were sounded, while others drove or ran from the coast to higher ground, Reuters said.

A senior police officer told the news agency that he had seen three bodies and that many others were trapped in damaged buildings.

"The earthquake was massive, it's still shaking now," said A. Nainggolan, the deputy police chief in Gunungsitoli.

Nias, off the western coast of Sumatra and about 870 miles northwest of Jakarta, is a remote and rugged island famed as a surfing paradise.

In Sri Lanka, officials evacuated that country's tsunami-battered coastline late Monday amid fears of another tsunami, government officials told Reuters.

From the eastern town of Trincomalee to the capital Colombo, the police used loudspeakers to warn residents to move inland.

"We received a call from Trincomalee," Eric Fernando, a spokesman for President Chandrika Kumaratunga, told Reuters. "We were told sirens

are going, which means an evacuation is taking place." The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu said that the authorities in the Indian Ocean region should monitor the situation to determine where evacuations might be warranted.

"This earthquake has the potential to generate a widely destructive tsunami in the ocean or seas near the earthquake," the warning center said in an advisory just after the quake rumbled through the area.

"Authorities in those regions should be aware of this possibility and take immediate action," it said. "This action should include evacuation of coasts within a thousand kilometers (600 miles) of the epicenter and close monitoring to determine the need for evacuation further away."

The Pacific warning center is an international tsunami warning system operated under U.N. auspices, and is based in and focused on the Pacific, where 90 percent of tsunamis occur. In their bulletin, issued 19 minutes after the earthquake struck, officials from the warning center said that the authorities could "assume the danger has passed if no tsunami waves are observed in the region near the epicenter within four hours of the earthquake."

CO Court Affirms Bible Should Not Be Used in Deliberations

By Kirk Johnson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DENVER

Colorado's highest court, in a sharply divided ruling, upheld a lower court's decision on Monday throwing out the sentence of a man who was given the death penalty after jurors consulted their Bibles in reaching a verdict. The Bible, the court said, constituted an improper outside influence and a reliance on what the court called a "higher authority."

"The judicial system works very hard to emphasize the rarefied, solemn and sequestered nature of jury deliberations," the majority panel of the Colorado Supreme Court said in a 3-2 decision. "Jurors must deliberate in

that atmosphere without the aid or distraction of extraneous texts."

The ruling involved the conviction of Robert Harlan, who was found guilty in 1995 of raping and murdering a cocktail waitress near Denver. After Harlan's conviction, the judge in the case — as Colorado law requires — sent the jury off to deliberate about the death penalty with an instruction to think beyond the narrow confines of the law. Each juror, the judge told the panel, must make an "individual moral assessment," in deciding whether Harlan should live or die.

The jurors voted unanimously for death. The Supreme Court's decision changes that sentence to life in prison without parole.

In the state Supreme Court decision on Monday, the dissenting judges said the majority had confused the internal codes of right and wrong that juries are expected to possess in such weighty moral matters, with the outside influences that are always to be avoided like newspaper articles or television programs about the case. The jurors consulted their Bibles, the minority said, not to look for facts or alternative legal interpretations, but for wisdom.

"The biblical passages the jurors discussed constituted either a part of the jurors' moral and religious precepts or their general knowledge, and thus were relevant to their court-sanctioned moral assessment," the minority wrote.

WEATHER

Soggy Start

By Cegeon J. Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

What's that saying? April showers bring May flowers? Apparently, no one told Mother Nature that it's still March! This storm was also no simple shower. When the storm finally exits, anywhere from 1.5" to 2" of rain will have fallen with possible localized reports of greater than 3" expected. To put this into perspective, the total precipitation for a typical summer month in Boston is 3.25".

So, because of the copious amounts of rain, the National Weather Service has kept a Flood Watch in effect until noon today. Although we had a soggy start to the work week, we can look forward to more dry conditions mid-week. Looking upstream, temperatures in South Dakota yesterday were over 75°F (24°C). It won't get that warm here, but we can expect high temperatures to be in the lower 50's F. Friday night into Saturday, another low-pressure center heads our way with similar characteristics as this previous storm, likely giving us another bout of rain.

Extended Forecast:

Today: Rain early in the morning with spotty rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 40's F (9°C). Northwest winds 10-15 mph.

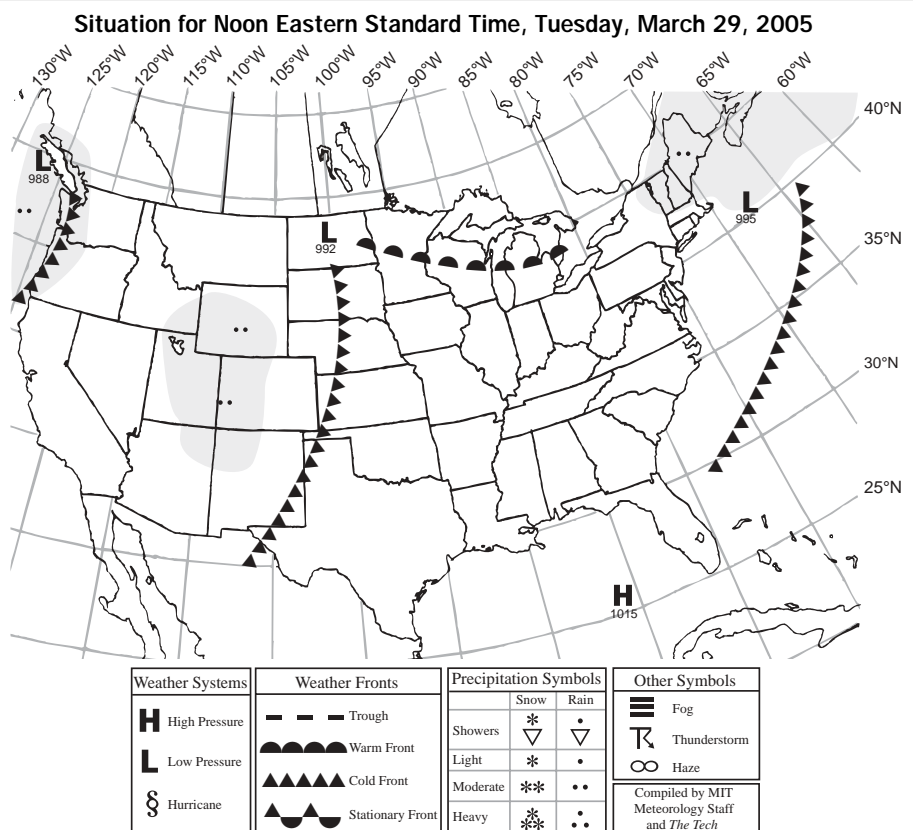
Tonight: Clearing skies. Lows in the upper 30's F (4°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny. Windy. Highs in the lower 50's F (12°C).

Winds gusting to 30 mph in the morning and subsiding in the afternoon.

Tomorrow Night: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30's F (4°C).

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50's (12°C) and lows near 40°F (5°C).



On Eve of National Assembly, Iraqi Parties Still Disagreeing

By Edward Wong
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

After a wave of violence swept central Iraq late Sunday and Monday, leaving at least nine people dead, the country's leading political parties negotiated furiously but apparently fruitlessly on Monday, a day before a scheduled meeting of the national assembly.

The violence was concentrated in an area south of Baghdad known as the Triangle of Death for the regularity with which Iraqi civilians and security personnel are gunned down by insurgents and criminals. With Shiite pilgrims now heading through the area to Karbala for a religious festival, attacks on Shiite

pilgrims are expected to increase.

In addition, three Romanian journalists were abducted on Monday, according to Romania's president, Traian Basescu, who did not say where the kidnapping occurred. The three worked for Prima TV, part of the Romanian Satellite Network.

As the 275-member assembly prepared to hold its second meeting, two months after general elections, it appeared that the top politicians had failed to reach any deal to install a government.

At best, the assembly is expected to name a speaker and two deputy speakers, said Adnan Pachachi, a leading Sunni Arab politician. But even that looked doubtful on Mon-

day afternoon, after the leading candidate for speaker, the current interim president, Sheik Ghazi al-Yawer, turned down the job, according to his personal secretary, Ahmad Najati. The leaders of the top parties met Monday evening to discuss the issue.

The leading Shiite bloc, the United Iraqi Alliance, was trying to put forward Fawaz al-Jarba, a Sunni Arab candidate from its group, as an alternative. Some politicians have expressed resistance, though, to having a member of the alliance, even a Sunni Arab, take on the job of assembly speaker, because the alliance already dominates the assembly and is expected to secure the post of prime minister.

Federal Officials Plan to Catalog Genetic Abnormalities of Cancer

By Andrew Pollack
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Opening a new front in the battle against cancer, federal officials are planning to compile a complete catalog of the genetic abnormalities that characterize it.

The proposed Human Cancer Genome Project, as it is being called for now, would be greater in scale than the Human Genome Project, which mapped the human genetic blueprint. It would seek to determine the DNA sequence of thousands of tumor samples, looking for mutations that give rise to cancer or sustain it.

Proponents say a databank of all such mutations, which would be freely available to researchers, would provide invaluable clues for develop-

ing new ways to diagnose, treat and prevent cancer.

"Knowing the defects of the cancer cell points you to the Achilles' heel of tumors," said Dr. Eric S. Lander, director of the Broad Institute, a genetic research center in Cambridge, Mass., that is affiliated with Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The project would cost roughly \$1.35 billion over nine years, but where the money will come from is still uncertain. For now, the government is likely to start with some smaller pilot projects, officials said.

Some scientists are dubious about the cost and the prospect that a big science project could take money away from smaller ones run by indi-

vidual scientists.

Dr. J. Craig Venter, who led a private project to determine the human DNA blueprint in competition with the Human Genome Project, said it would make more sense to look at specific families of genes known to be involved in cancer.

"Diverting a billion or two dollars from other areas of research when it's not clear what answer we'd get, there might be better ways to move cancer research forward," Venter said.

But Lander and other proponents say the time is right for such a project because the Human Genome Project has provided the underlying human DNA sequence with which tumor cells can be compared. In addition, the cost of sequencing is dropping.

New Largest Prime Found

By Kenneth Chang
THE NEW YORK TIMES

An eye surgeon in Germany has discovered the world's largest known prime number, or at least his computer did.

The surgeon, Dr. Martin Nowak of Michelfeld, is among thousands of participants in the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search, one of several big projects that tap idle computers worldwide.

Last month, Nowak's Pentium 4 computer concluded that a number it had been crunching on for more than 50 days was indeed prime, with only two integer divisors, 1 and itself. A different computer using different software verified the result.

The number, rendered in exponential shorthand, is $2^{25,964,951}-1$. It has 7,816,230 digits, and if printed in its entirety, would fill 235 newspaper pages.

In addition, it falls in a rare category of primes known as Mersenne primes, which can be written as 2^n-1 where n is also prime.

The first few Mersenne primes are easily verifiable — inserting 2, 3 and 5 for n produces 3, 7 and 31, all prime — but the math quickly becomes overwhelming for larger values.

In 1644, Marin Mersenne, a French monk, published a list of 11 prime numbers — the highest being 257 — for which he asserted that 2^n-1 was also prime.

That list was not fully checked until 1947, three centuries later. Mersenne turned out to be wrong about two numbers on his list and had missed three others, but his name still remains attached to the concept. Even with computers to speed up the search, Nowak's number is still only the 42nd Mersenne prime to be found.

China to Reward Whistleblowers On Bank Corruption

By Chris Buckley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

Seeking to halt a recent increase in bank corruption, China published rules Monday offering generous rewards to bank employees who expose corruption.

Bank managers will also be regularly rotated to different posts and monitored for involvement in pornography, gambling and drugs under the rules, which were issued by the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

Other steps announced included making senior managers "legally responsible" for major fraud cases; establishing a system of reporting on the stock investments of managers and top personnel; and establishing new checks on loan approvals.

"There's been a succession of major cases due to weaknesses in risk management and internal controls, and this had led to major capital losses from banks," a commission official told Xinhua, the official news agency, in a statement that appeared in the Chinese press Monday. Xinhua did not identify the official.

Council for the Arts at MIT Funding Available!

Next application deadline:

April 8, 2005!

Please contact the director of the Council for the Arts at MIT, Susan Cohen, at cohen@media.mit.edu, to make an appointment to discuss your project and the Council's application process. While not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that you meet with the director.

Requests for funding submitted on this deadline must be for projects or events that begin no sooner than May 19, 2005

Important information is available on the web:

Grants Guidelines: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html>

Application form: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantform.html>

Other funding sources: <http://web.mit.edu/slp/finances/supp-funding-guide.html>

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Cell Phone Options Are Available

The March 15 issue of *The Tech* did a very nice job describing the changes to dorm phones next fall. However, I realized I missed an opportunity to comment on the cell phone options available at MIT.

MIT has two preferred cell phone vendors, Nextel and Verizon Wireless. Nextel offers discounts to MIT students. In addition, MIT

also has contracts with Cingular and Sprint, neither of which has explicit discounts for students. All contracts provide discounts for MIT employees, though, so students who are employed by MIT qualify to receive MIT employee discounts. Further information can be found on-line at <http://web.mit.edu/ist/services/telecommunications/cellphones.html>.

Although Information Services and Technology (IS&T) does not provide cell phone service, we do work with the carriers to try to

rectify reception problems. Feedback regarding reception problems can be e-mailed to cell-feedback@mit.edu.

For more information about MIT's cell phone contracts, contact Mary Bacci at mamato@mit.edu. If you have questions about the changes in dorm phone service, feel free to contact Housing at housing@mit.edu, or IS&T at dorm-phone@mit.edu.

Allison F. Dolan
Director, Telephony Services



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 Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

The Killing of Terri Schiavo

Terri Matsakis

The actions of Congress last week may have surprised many Americans, but not all of us. For those who have been following Terri Schiavo's case, Congress's actions were the last efforts to save the life of a woman whose guardianship case seemed riddled with inconsistencies and poor judgements. Unfortunately, the media has neglected to mention why thousands of people have taken to writing letters to their representatives asking them to intervene in this case.

The case was originally brought to court by the Schindlers in order to find out what therapy Terri was being given and to have access to her medical records which her husband Michael Schiavo, as guardian, had control over and was keeping from the parents ever since he had her therapy stopped in 1993. The case did not become a right-to-die case until a couple of years later in 1998 when Michael suddenly remembered that Terri would not have wanted to live this way. He, of course, failed to mention any of this in his testimony in the malpractice suits where he claimed that he wanted to take care of her for the rest of her life. His 1998 claim also contradicts his conversations with his friend, Trudy Capone, who said that Schiavo stated multiple times that he had no idea what her wishes were.

Then there's the question of whether Terri is really in a persistent vegetative state (PVS). This is the crux of the case. The nurses attending her testify that she had likes, dislikes, and was comfortable with some nurses more than others — clearly not PVS. She was also able to say things like "no," "help me," and "hi" and she would laugh at jokes. Terri's family all claim she's not PVS, and accounts by wit-

nesses such as lawyers and the priests who occasionally accompanied Terri's family claim that she responds to her family members differently and acts differently when they're coming and leaving. There are also numerous doctors, some who have examined her in person and some who have looked at the video footage, who claim she is not PVS. The court-appointed and Schiavo-chosen doctors, of course, disagree.

The nurses' testimonies do not paint Michael as the loving husband he claims to be, but more importantly, they are clear that after 1993, despite the fact that Terri's condition was improving with therapy, Michael ordered absolutely no therapy to be done. The nurses were told to follow his orders or be fired. He was happy when Terri was sick and would say things like, "When is that bitch going to die?" Some nurses did do therapy, but behind closed doors for fear that Michael would find out and take it out on Terri. One nurse testified that often after Michael's private visits, Terri would be more agitated and tense, and another testified that a couple of times after his visits, her blood sugar was so low that the nurse had to administer dextrose (implying Michael had given Terri insulin shots). Observation notes describing Terri's capabilities were regularly removed from the medical charts and thrown into the trash.

The question of the feeding tube, while not the crux of the right-to-die case, is important because the tube was put in at Michael's request, probably because it was easier for the staff to deal with. Anyone who's fed a baby knows that spoon feeding is not very neat, and apparently, feeding tubes are regularly put in just to make nurses' lives easier. That's fine. The fact that Terri hasn't had a swallowing test since

1992, doesn't drool, and that Judge Greer denied the motions to give her a swallowing test and to have her fed by mouth after her tube was to be removed are quite disturbing. If the claim is that she's being supported by "extraordinary means" (which many people dispute in the first place), she should at least be given the chance to live by "ordinary means," such as feeding by mouth. Why deny such a request? Was he worried she'd choke to death instead of starving?

What has some people worried is the combination of an unexplained bone scan and Michael's "cremate without autopsy" order. In 2002, one of the lawyers was given, through discovery, a bone scan done in 1991 indicating broken bones of such severity that they could only have happened through something like a multi-story fall. This, combined with Michael's "cremate without autopsy" order and the fact that he turned down the Schindlers' offer to let him keep all the money from the settlements and anything that he would have inherited when she dies, has led some people to wonder if he's not after the money, but rather after staying of jail. The Schindlers have long suspected that he was at fault for Terri's 1990 accident, but no one seems willing to investigate it. The bone scan, no doubt, has strengthened their suspicions.

There are many other questions here —

why is Terri on Medicare when the malpractice suit should be paying for her care? Why was she allowed to be moved to a hospice when she didn't have a terminal condition? Why has Michael been permitted to remain guardian when he has clearly violated numerous guardianship laws? Why did Judge Greer dismiss a court-appointed guardian who sided with the parents and take the guardianship on himself even though that's against Florida law? Why did Judge Greer never even visit

Terri to see her situation for himself even though a court-appointed guardian is required to do so? You'd think, at the least, that it'd be worthwhile to meet the person you're having starved to death to make sure she really is PVS.

All-in-all, when you hear that this is just a right-to-die case with a practical husband and parents who are imagining that their daughter interacts with them, be very

skeptical. This case has gotten people, both pro-life and pro-choice, riled up because many believe that a woman is literally being murdered, aware of her own suffering, for the sole benefit of a lying, abusive husband.

For more information on Michael's testimony at the malpractice trial, the nurses' testimony, the bone scan, and Trudy Capone's testimony, visit <http://www.terrisfight.net>.

Terri Matsakis is a member of the Class of '93.

One nurse testified that often after Michael's private visits, Terri would be more agitated and tense, and another that a couple of times after his visits, her blood sugar was so low, the nurse had to administer dextrose (implying Michael had given Terri insulin shots).

A Response Regarding Sloan Rejections

Dear Members of the MIT Cryptography and Information Security Group and of CSAIL,

I am replying to your thoughtful e-mail of March 13 and the *Tech* letter to the editor from March 16, regarding MIT Sloan's position on the treatment of applicants who gained unauthorized access to a restricted area of the Apply Yourself admissions site. I spent a good deal of time thinking about this issue before I set our policy, and I've read and considered a number of e-mails from people who, like you, think we were too severe. I remain convinced that we were not too severe.

First, let's start with a clarification of the facts. The instructions for gaining access to the admissions decisions area of the Web site, which were posted on the Business Week site, made it clear that whoever followed those instructions was taking advantage of poor coding to enter an unauthorized area:

"I know everyone is getting more and more anxious to check status of their apps to HBS, given their black box. So I looked around their site and found a way. Here are the steps

1. Login to HBS site.
2. check your url, it contains something like: `AYID=3533396-CA54-403A-B6F5-3D804B35AE9`. Copy it somewhere.
3. Next, click on the link called application for admission on the main page. Open the source from your browser (view->page source)
4. Next, search for packageanswerid it

will be a 7 digit number. copy it (they call it id) replace the following URI with your own values of AYID and id: <https://app.applyyourself.com/AyApplicantMain/ApplicantDecision.asp?AYID=3533396-CA54-403A-B6F53D804B35AE9&mode=decision&id=1234567> paste this link in the browser. You will be able to check your decision immediately, no waits.

love u applyyourself for bad coding ..."

The Apply Yourself server did not indiscriminately hand out confidential information, as you allege — someone had to follow deliberate and unusual steps to gain unauthorized access to a portion of the Web site. From looking at the posting and following the steps, a reasonable person would have known these instructions were intended to provide unintended and unauthorized access.

I believe the lock and key analogy holds in this situation. If Person A picks the poor lock on his neighbor's house and tells Person B how to do the same thing, is it alright for Person B to use the information to pick the lock and enter his neighbor's house? Or if Person A steals his neighbor's easy-to-copy key, makes a copy and gives it to Person B, is it alright for Person B to use it to enter his neighbor's house? In either case, if B enters his neighbor's house, it doesn't matter if he does it only out of curiosity or for some other reason, it is still breaking and entering.

You are correct in stating that curiosity is not a crime, but acting on that curiosity to enter your poorly locked neighbor's house without authority is a crime, and acting on

that curiosity to over-ride poor security on a Web site to gain unauthorized access to the site is clearly unethical as well. Your analogy about an applicant calling the admissions office to ask for his decision early doesn't hold. Asking is not taking without authority. Asking provides the admissions office (as it would provide your neighbor or the owner of a Web site) the ability to deny the request. What if the posting on the Business Week site said that Admissions keeps the decisions in the Director's office, and provided a map of how to get to the Director's office, noted which file cabinet contains the decisions, and provided the combination to a padlock being used to secure the cabinet? Breaking into the locked file cabinet would be clearly unethical. In fact, accessing the file cabinet even if it were not locked would be unethical, because it is clear that applicants are not authorized to access it. This is analogous to the people who gained unauthorized access to the Apply Yourself decisions site. We would deny admission to people for intentionally gaining unauthorized access to a secured (even if poorly secured) Web site, just as we would for gaining unauthorized access to a file cabinet whether or not it was protected by the best available lock.

In your letter, you mentioned that "MIT should lead the charge in teaching security to the world (including other business schools), rather than laying blame on a few students that are guilty of nothing more than legitimate curiosity." We will leave it to EECS and groups like yours to teach the world about security. (I will note, however, that nobody in

fact got access to any confidential MIT Sloan information. The locked file cabinet was empty.) MIT Sloan, however, will take a stand against intentional breaches of security, good or bad, to gain unauthorized access to Web sites. Curiosity is not an excuse. We will take a stand on ethics and good judgment, attributes that are important to us in our mission of developing principled, innovative leaders who improve the world.

We take ethics seriously at MIT Sloan. We also take fairness seriously, which is why we have repeatedly said that we will consider appeals on decisions related to the Apply Yourself incident if there is good information that we do not have and that is relevant to our conclusion about the ethics and judgment demonstrated by a particular applicant. We also believe that people can learn from their mistakes, and this is why we have also said that the decline decision is only for this year and that we welcome people to reapply for admission next year. While very serious, this is not the worst possible offense, and we have not applied the most stringent possible penalty. I continue to believe that a one year penalty is appropriate and fair in this case.

Nonetheless, I want to thank you again for your thoughtful comment. It seems that this incident has provoked a broad national conversation on the ethics of actions like the ones at issue here, and I believe will ultimately benefit us all.

Sincerely,
Richard Schmalensee
John C. Head III Dean
MIT Sloan

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CAMPUS LIFE

I Did It for Science

Divine Revelations in a Strip Club

By Monica Byrne

Can you believe there are no male strip clubs in Boston? Neither could I. I was looking forward to writing a column about Boston beefcakes wearing tight Red Sox briefs, but alas, I didn't have the option.

At first glance, going to a female strip club is not especially unusual or alternative. Business deals, bachelor parties, big game nights, fraternity soirees, and 21st birthday parties regularly populate strip clubs on weekends. On Saturday nights, venues like Centerfolds — a strip club in a Chinatown alley — overflow.

That is why I went at 4 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon.

Going to a strip club was also a personal adventure for three reasons. First, I'd never been to one. Second, I've been a very vocal feminist since I could speak, committed to the eradication of sex as a social category. Third, I have the mind and libido of a twelve-year-old boy. Boobies are neat.

Going to the strip club on a weekday afternoon was a deliberate choice. The act of patronage would be stripped, so to speak, of its legitimacy. I expected a stark exhibition of gender dynamics, painful to watch, but compelling as a train wreck. I expected to watch the strippers dance, then become bored; I would mingle with the male patrons and find out their stories as the novelty of naked women faded into the background. I was right, and I was wrong.

When I arrived, a kindly, soft-spoken bouncer met me at the door. "Don't look so nervous!" he teased gently. "No I don't!" I yipped back. "I mean ... I'm not!" (Slick, Monica, slick.)

The girl in the ticket booth, who looked my age, put down her copy of "In a Sunburned Country" and gave me a red stub. A hallway rose to the lounge, where the main stage was. My eyes had to adjust to near total darkness. I took a deep breath and ascended

the runway, pumped like a boxer coming out to the ring.

And suddenly, there was a naked woman! Right there, in plain sight! In nothing but Plexiglass platform pumps, she shimmed up a silver pole like some hairless marsupial. She climbed impressively high, and then slid down like a practiced firefighter. She was a dead ringer for Lindsey Lohan, with a blonde bob. She had beautiful arcing tattoos over both breasts and another weaving over the small of her back.

I sat in a dark corner. Getting over the initial shock of seeing exposed jiggling breasts ten feet away, I peeled my eyes away and scanned the dark lounge. The handful of scattered men gave me black looks when I sat down, but that was the limit of their expression. They were mute lumps in the dark. One tall gaunt man in his 60s wore white sneakers and stared through Coke-bottle glasses. One giant man with hip-length dreadlocks scribbled furiously on a piece of paper, looking up periodically. One younger guy hung around the stage dressed in droopy, powder-blue warm-ups, looking like an ill-advised boy band refugee. In his palm was a seemingly inexhaustible pile of bills, which he used to attract the strippers' attention.

Feeling self-conscious, I went to check out the bathroom. There was only a men's room on the first floor, so I was led behind the velvet rope to the ladies' room on the second floor. The single-seater was tiled in gray, with studded metal trim — a nice S&M touch, I thought. Also, there was a pay phone affixed to the center of the wall. I wondered about its purpose: the door locked fast.

I came across the blonde stripper upstairs, stacking her tips at an empty table, wearing a long black evening gown with a slit up to her waist. I said hello cheerfully and complimented her on her performance; she grinned widely and thanked me. First asking her permission, I asked if she herself

felt sexy when performing. Sometimes, she said, especially when the customers are smiling.

I returned to my seat downstairs. Two brunettes danced in tandem, each of them about my age. Sometimes they seemed distracted due to the low attendance; one woman paused in her routine to watch a Sox play on ESPN. The off-duty strippers sat at the bar, fraternizing with patrons and regulars. In most cases, they are required to do this. Whenever there was a drought in tips for the stripper onstage, they hooted encouragement. No one else did.

The fourth dancer was caramel-haired, wearing a frilly black-and-white number with cutouts over her midsection. She followed the standard three-course meal format: 1) the gown that peeled off like molting skin, 2) a teasing parade in a thong, and finally, 3) full-blown shaven nudity. At one point, I remarked to my friend, "What I wouldn't give for one of these strippers to come out with a big ol' shag carpet."

I moved to the front row, right by the stage, which took some serious nads on my part. As soon as she saw me, her face bloomed. She grinned ear-to-ear, openly and unguardedly. "How ya DOIN'?" she shouted over the music. "Great to SEE you! Are you ENJOYING yourself?" At this point, I had become incapable of forming words. I'm sure I looked like a moonstruck lamb. Speechless and agog, I just smiled back and nervously threw a five-dollar bill at her feet. Her grin got wider and she leaned over the rim of the stage, bare breasts swinging. "This song is so stupid," she whispered conspiratorially. She smelled like baby powder and the stale traces of a blow dryer. Then she rolled onto her back and opened her legs in a gigantic V, heels stabbing outward like pitchforks.

She didn't skimp because I was a girl. She relished performing for me. I stayed in the front row thereafter, and each stripper seemed similarly thrilled to perform for me. I have considered whether they knew how to play me, just like they knew how to play the men. That may play a part in it. But since talking to a counselor who has worked with strippers, I can also be confident in my intuition. I was safe to them; I represented no threat. They

were genuinely glad to see me.

Because it was a slow time of day, there were only four strippers on duty. The Lindsay Lohan look-alike came around again. I was struck, as I was with all the women, by how beautiful she was. At the end of her routine, she squatted in front of me, naked as a jaybird, everything there for me to see: ridges, folds, and petals opening out. I was completely awestruck. It wasn't desire; it was gratitude. I knew, by current social norms, that she was likely stripping out of financial need, self-esteem issues, or a history of abuse. But I could only see her as sharing a gift with me, a gift of inestimable value.

When the men clamored for her attention, waving bills, her expression changed markedly. Her eyes went blank, and her expression turned vacant. The men didn't paw or harass, behaviors that are not unusual in strip clubs. According to a recent study of Mid-western strip clubs, 94 percent of strippers experienced harassment or abuse. Patrons make threatening phone calls and follow them to their cars, pelt them onstage, or outright attack them. The pervasive attitude is, "If she's showing her body to me, she must want it. And if she doesn't want it, she shouldn't be showing off her body." They live in a world where they are entitled to access women's bodies with no requisition. To strippers, men mostly represent danger. Unfortunately, they also represent liveliness.

This was a higher-class establishment, and the men kept their hands and insults to themselves. Instead they leaned in, their mouths making O's, smacking their lips, and breathing through their teeth — sad stereotypes in sport coats. Were they the oppressors or just another kind of victim? In either case, they also inhabited this fantasy world.

On the other hand, in my world, these women did work of inestimable worth and value. They deserved reverence and gratitude for their generosity and as much money as I make in a month. There is certainly precedent for this attitude. Far from being a feminist myth, evidence abounds of prostitutes-

Strip Club, Page 8

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Monkey Gone to Heaven

You Always Pay for It

By Ruth Miller

OPINION EDITOR

I decided to write this after throwing back a few ciders at the conclusion of the most kick ass Spring Break ever. Yes, I know people throw that around a lot. But seriously, this time, it's true.

Now a lot of your typical "best Spring Break ever" stories involve shelling out a lot of your or your parents' money to go to some sandy tourist hot spot, get boozed out of your mind, and have giant orgies with other boozed up college students. That's why my story is better. I'm the proud recipient of the "Dating Someone Wealthier Than Me" Scholarship, and while it doesn't cover tuition, it does offer one hell of an all expenses paid European vacation.

Leaving Friday afternoon, after my boyfriend's 18.03 exam, we headed straight to South Station for the Chinatown buses. Maybe I've watched too much "Amazing Race," but I was narrating the whole time: "now, our teams travel via Chinatown bus to New York City, where they must meet their boyfriend's parents and head out to JFK Airport to wait in an endless mess of lines and smile nicely at the TSA employees to cut ahead at security checkpoints, where they'll then receive their next clue." Did you know New York City is trying to get a bid for the 2012 Olympics? Neither did I.

Virgin Airlines is awesome — mad props to Richard Branson. The "cabin crew" laughed at me for not knowing what kind of wine to have with barbeque chicken and then told me the British were more advanced for calling her position "cabin crew" instead of the dastardly, more American "stewardess."

On our last day in the city of London, which is also trying to get an Olympic bid, we decided to hit a pub for lunch one more time. Needless to say, this involved a bit of cider. Once tipsy, we then proceeded back to the house of my boyfriend's uncle to retrieve our luggage and hit the train station.

Lo' and behold, we were locked out. Leatherman back in the States and far too inebriated to scale the back wall of the fortress, we waited around for a while.

In the end, we gave up and headed back to the city. We decided to try for a show, but it was already six o'clock, and the only place we could think to go was surely sold out. We arrived at "We Will Rock You," a new musical by Queen and Ben Elton, and waited patiently in "Will Call" as everyone hurried to their seats. We finally got to the window and asked for two tickets. The nice lady told us they were probably close to sold out. But wait ... What was that? Two tickets just went online; it appeared someone had cancelled. They were in row K. I looked at the seating chart, and there appeared to be two row K's. Surely she meant the one in the nosebleed section. Nope, she meant *that* row K, down by the stage. Sure enough, within minutes, we were sitting in

eleventh row seats for the story of Galileo Figaro and Scaramouch as they struggled to bring Rock n' Roll back to the Bohemians, oppressed by the Killer Queen, in the form of their prophesied Rhapsody. I highly recommend it. Seriously — I still have "Somebody to Love" stuck in my head.

Then Paris. Oh Paris, how I've longed to see your tiny streets, unwashed residents, and yummy baguettes. Even Lana from Smallville got to spend the whole summer traversing your busy streets and colourful markets. Hell, Pinky and the Brain did an episode in Napoleonic France. Now, it was my turn.

Our accommodations were more than lush. The poshly-decorated, one-bedroom guest apartment sat above one of the tastier cafés in a busy touristy district, so it was boisterous until the café closed at 5 a.m. and started up again when it reopened at 7 a.m. The apartment had no television, no phone, and lots of Marvin Gaye. Our neighbours had a very original idea; as a result, we woke up on the last morning to the muffled sound of Parisians having sex. I shouted back, "At least we have an economy." Oh yeah, guess who else is vying for an Olympic bid?

The city was lovely, but strange. The catacombs were closed for the season; thus, I had to starve my bloodlust until we found a cartouche and I forgot what was in black boudin. We decided to see "Be Cool," hoping that the exact moment of John Travolta's career's death would be funnier with French subtitles. Do you remember the part of "Bowling for Columbine" with the clip of the good "Matrix," where Agent Smith is being badass and real coolly says "No," a pause, and then a weak "non" flashes on the bottom of the screen? Turns out, it's a cool movie on its own — that is, if you ignore every scene with Steven Tyler. I love Aerosmith, but seriously, if you can mentally block his parts, it's a great movie. Cedric the Entertainer, Vince Vaughn, The Rock, and André 3000 are incredible. Our Committee on Campus Race Relations would be proud of a certain monologue, and I don't mean The Rock's rendition of a scene from "Bring it On."

How will it end? Will I get to my 10 o'clock class in time on Monday morning? Will I get to my 11:30 a.m. class on time? Who knows? I left my watch in the dorm, and I haven't known the time through any of the time changes so far. March 27 is the day of daylight savings England, so I REALLY don't know what the hell time it is. But *The Tech* has funny deadlines, so I'm writing this in London on Saturday night, and the conclusion is yet to be had. So hello future. I hope it all worked out alright. Either way, I haven't done shit for homework for this next week, so:

*Nothing really matters,
Anyone can see,
Nothing really matters...
Nothing really matters, to me,
Any way the wind blows ...*

Breaking the Second Law

Spring Break Fever

By Bill Andrews

STAFF COLUMNIST

You should be proud of me. Here I am, in the midst of Spring Break, not partying or dancing or drinking, but writing. Of course, by the time you read this it will, sadly, no longer be Spring Break. But trust me — I'm giving up a lot by writing this for you. You see, my Spring Break finds me in Ft. Lauderdale (woot!), the one-time capitol of Spring Break pandemonium. I could probably go to the beach right now and find a dozen camera crews (MTV, VH1, CNN, etc.) doing their "Wild Spring Break" shows. I could be on national TV right now, dancing with half naked girls, drinking till I throw up, and meeting caraaazy mad famous peeps, yo. But no, I chose to spend these minutes with you instead.

So what is it all about? Why have I chosen you, gentle readers, over wild ruckus and parties? Originally, I was going to talk about the fortune program. The problem with that topic is that no one I talked to (except my inner sanctum of friends, who first showed me) knew about such a program. To have to both explain and investigate a topic is a fair amount of work, and quite honestly, I don't feel up to it. Plus, I can't really do any investigating from 2000 miles away except calling Nightline, and I figure they deserve a Spring Break too, at least from me.

The end result being that I won't investigate fortune for you, at least not right now. Sorry. I'll tell you about it, though: your assignment, should you chose to accept it, is to type, on any Athena prompt, "add sipb," then hit enter, then type (on a new prompt) "fortune." And don't use the quotes, for heaven's sakes. Now go ahead, try it.

The name can be slightly misleading, as I haven't always gotten fortunes per se, but it's always been worth my while. See what you think.

Which leaves me with the daunting task of writing about "Something Else." I could be controversial. After all, Terri Schiavo practically lives in my back yard; I could write pages and pages on government interference in civil matters and the incredible disregard for the separation of powers so many politicians are displaying. Or, using an old favorite, I could write about why it is every woman's right to choose whether or not to have a child. Or about the unjust war in Iraq, or the phonicness of the social security crisis, or the totally ignored (actual) medical coverage crisis. I could even, to bring it closer to home, write

about how the MIT administration consistently targets and even persecutes the dorms of East Campus and Senior Haus, the very heart and soul of MIT, and how West Campus doesn't care because they're too busy buying clothes at The Gap and downloading annoying ringtones.

See, plenty of great topics out there, any one of which would raise a few eyebrows, to say the least. So why don't I go into them? First, because I write for Campus Life, and not Opinion; my editor's expecting me to plop something down on his desk, not the competition's. Second, because such issues can never be won, not really; they'd just start a chain of "Bill's column was sooo wrong!" "No you're so wrong!" "Nuh-uh, you are!" letters, and we have enough of those. Third, and here we get to the heart of the matter, I don't really want to back up any of those arguments, because that takes work and thought, two things that are antithetical to Spring Break. Even worse, I might realize I'm wrong about something (most likely the last idea), and would then have to go through the torturous process of changing my mind. No thanks.

So what's a growing boy to write about? Man, who knows. Back in the day, when I actually lived here, when I was similarly stuck (be it in writing, or video gaming), I'd just go for a drive. I must say, much as I love public transportation and walking, I really miss driving around here. When it's a nice day like today, and you got some good music you can sing along too, there ain't nothin' like going for a drive with the windows open and just cruisin'. I'd satisfy my adventurous urges by driving into places I'd never even heard of before and see the sights, look at the people and the houses. God blessed me with a great sense of direction (lots of modesty too), so getting lost was never a problem. Even more importantly, I never had to put my manhood in jeopardy by (shiver) asking for directions. There's nothing so liberating, so freedom-endowing, as being the master of your own destination, of almost being home and suddenly, on a whim, deciding to stay on the interstate a little longer and find a new way home. Ah, those were the days ...

Y'know, maybe I'll just go out for a little drive now. You'd hardly even know I'm gone. Honest. I just need a little fresh air to get a good idea, to get those creative juices flowing. Besides, you can't expect too much from me during Spring Break anyway, right?

Hmm, maybe I'll take this suntan lotion with me just in case ...

A Spiritual Experience At the Local Strip Club

Strip Club, from Page 7

as-priestesses in ancient Mediterranean and Mesopotamian cultures. They were masters and teachers of the one craft most sacred to the human race. If their modern descendants aren't paid in heaps of gold and silk, then at the very least, they deserve safe cover, wholesome working conditions, and fair wages.

But I don't pretend that the current reality even approaches this ideal. For that reason, I was living a fantasy too.

Whatever I expected going into the strip club, I certainly didn't expect to have a spiritual experience. In researching the history of sacred prostitutes, I came across a passage by D.H. Lawrence that echoed my sentiments exactly: "She is getting herself naked and clear of her fear ... how sensitive and

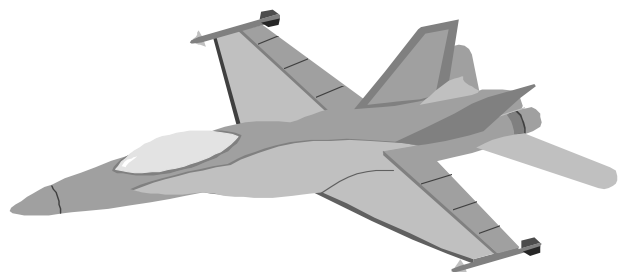
softly alive she is ... how terrible to fail her, or to trespass on her!" In contrast to this deep respect, the strip club was a bare, bleeding pageant of human failings, needs and desires contorted, unfulfilled, and driven to shame.

Radical though it may seem, I live for the day when sex is sacred again. Strip clubs would be like churches, and male and female dancers would shed clothing to a full-blown gospel choir, with patrons shouting praises in the pews. The term "divine revelation" would have a whole new meaning. As it is, I'll think of those women working on weekday afternoons and can only hope they're honored as they deserve.

Can you think of something weird, alternative or downright crazy in the Boston area you'd like me to try? I'm your guinea pig. Send your ideas to mcbyrne@mit.edu.

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March 29,
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PAGES

Trio

Hey yo...tell a friend about TRIO: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



The Phantom is a Menace

by Brian Loux



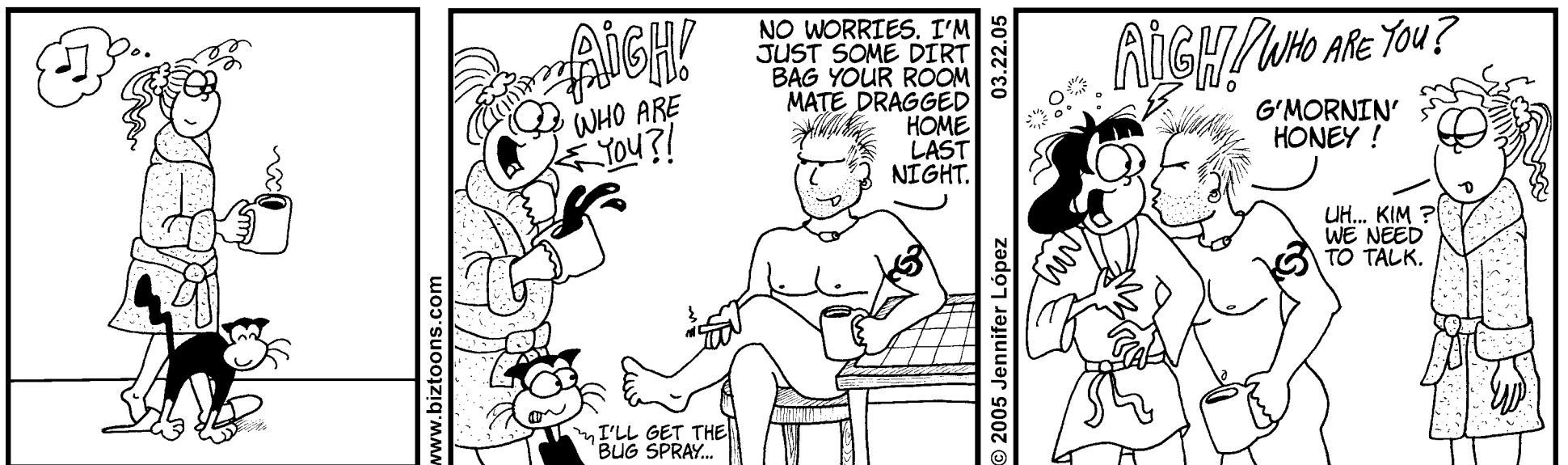
One Screw Loose

by Josie Sung



BizToons

BY JENNIFER LÓPEZ



The BizToons book, "You Can't Fire Me, I Still Have Business Cards Left!" is now 15% off at Amazon.com and free shipping!

COURSE@



Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Splatform

by James Biggs



If you're such an alpha male why do you have to pick up my shit?

FoxTrot by Bill Amend



Department of
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

We especially invite **undergraduates** to the following general interest lectures, co-sponsored by the Department:

Vegetation Dynamics and The Earth System

Professor Martin Claussen, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; Potsdam University
April 7, 2005 ♦ 4:00-6:00 pm ♦ 26-100

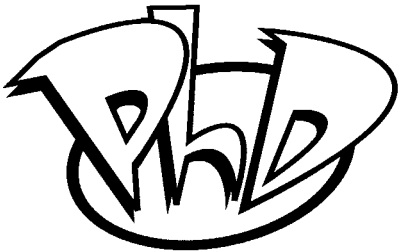
Global Water Crisis: Myth or Reality?

Peter Rogers, Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Engineering, Harvard University
April 14, 2005 ♦ 6:00 pm ♦ E51: Tang Center

The Future of Engineering at MIT

Jim Champy, Chairman of Consulting, Perot Systems Corporation
April 21, 2005 ♦ 4:00-5:00 pm ♦ E15-070: Media Lab

Please see <http://cee.mit.edu> for more information
nature. tools. toys.



PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



KRT Crossword

Solution, page 19

ACROSS

- 1 Very softly, in music
- 4 Those, south of the border
- 9 Windows predecessor
- 14 Poetic meadow
- 15 Ivy league sch. founded by Ben Franklin
- 16 Bakery workers
- 17 Neighbor of Russ.
- 18 Ivory tickler
- 20 V-shaped cuts
- 22 Bushwa!
- 23 Eavesdroppers' posts
- 25 Granular seasoning
- 29 Golf score
- 30 Amtrak, e.g.
- 32 Tractor maker
- 33 Nova
- 36 OAS word

DOWN

- 1 Short, hollow, twanging sound
- 2 Black tea
- 3 Wet blanket
- 4 Feeling of well-being
- 5 Pitchman's pitch
- 6 Come-on
- 7 Raggedy doll
- 8 Elitist
- 9 Pulverized
- 10 Ticket reseller
- 11 Susan of "L.A. Law"
- 12 Mined mineral
- 13 Lith. or Azer., once
- 19 Baby beagle
- 21 Chew the fat
- 24 Keeled over
- 26 Panting bicyclist?
- 27 Muse of poetry
- 28 VCR button
- 31 Decade divs.
- 33 Torn tickets
- 34 Trig. function
- 35 Two-time loser to D.D.E.
- 37 Gooey mass
- 41 Stick up
- 42 Made suds
- 45 Poem parts
- 48 Vietnam neighbor
- 50 Workout clothes
- 52 Drinking vessel
- 55 Chop off
- 57 Mitt
- 58 Japanese watch
- 59 First name in cosmetics
- 61 "The Face is Familiar" poet
- 63 %
- 64 Damaged mdse. tag
- 65 Ms. Caldwell
- 66 Narrow inlet

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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McKinsey SUMMER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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COURSE
5 Department of
Chemistry

**Freshman
Open House**

Thursday, March 31

BUSH ROOM (10-105)

4:30 - 6:00

Putnam Provides Fun, Food, and Rewards

Putnam, from Page 1

said he is going to use it to pay for insurance for a motorcycle he recently bought. Of his performance, Barsov said that it was a

“very good surprise,” and that he thought his improvement in English was an important factor.

A Civil and Environmental Engineering and Economics double major, Barsov said he has not

improved on his math since coming to MIT and relied on his high school IMO experience.

He said MIT students should “just go and do it for fun ... I do it for the food,” he said.

very proud of MIT,” he said.

Rogers also said that females from MIT and in general did very well on the most recent exam, mentioning Ana Caraiani, a sophomore from Princeton who is a Fellow and the highest scoring female. “I’m sure [Harvard president] Larry Summers will hear about that,” he said. Two female Harvard students were among the top 15 scorers but had not been chosen for the team.

Rogers estimated that 98 students from MIT participated, the highest of all participating schools, as usual.

To celebrate, “certainly all the people who got [at least] an honorable mention” would be invited to a dinner and party in May, he said.

Rogers said he would encourage MIT students to take the exam for fun, but keep in mind that the median is very low and it is a “very hard exam.”

Stoica, an Honorable Mention recipient, said he was “happy about the team,” although he was not entirely satisfied with his personal performance. He said he had “many things to pay for” with his reward money.

Team does well

Rogers said the team was selected “more or less automatically” based on the three highest scorers of the previous year, although sometimes exceptional freshmen are chosen.

Although two of the three members of the team were Putnam Fellows the previous year, Rogers said he was still very surprised about MIT’s win. “I’m very happy and

MIT Awards in the Putnam Competition

First Place MIT Team

- Reid W. Barton '05
- Daniel M. Kane '07
- Emanuel I. Stoica '05

Putnam Fellows — Five Highest Scorers, Award of \$2,500

- Reid W. Barton '05
- Vladimir V. Barsov '06
- Daniel M. Kane '07

Next 10 Highest Scorers, Award of \$1,000

- Timothy G. Abbott '07

Next 11 Highest Scorers, Award of \$250

- Oleg I. Golberg '08
- Daniel R. Gulotta '07

Zhongtao Wu '05

Honorable Mentions

- Boris Alexeev '08
- PoNing Chen '06
- Anand R. Deopurkar '08
- Adam V. Donovan '07
- Karola Meszaros '05
- Nizameddin H. Ordulu '07
- Virgil C. Petrea '07
- Shubhangi Saraf '07
- Steven W. Sivek '06
- Emanuel I. Stoica '05
- Matthew J. Thibault '06
- Iliya T. Tsekov '08
- David W. Vincent '07

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.UNL.EDU/AMC/A-ACTIVITIES/A7-PROBLEMS/PUTNAM/HTML/PUTNAM2004RESULTS.HTML](http://www.unl.edu/amc/a-activities/a7-problems/putnam/html/putnam2004results.html)




STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Mary P. Harding '07 knocks the ball loose from Springfield College's Holly Carmody on Saturday, March 26, at the Jack Barry Field. MIT lost its second game of the season, 12-9.

You're at a greater risk of getting skin cancer if your hair is blonde or red.

(No matter how much of it you have left.)

Fair skin, light eyes and a tendency to burn in the sun, also put you at a higher risk. So, examine your skin regularly. If you find anything unusual, see your dermatologist.



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THE 2005 HAROLD & ARLENE SCHNITZER PRIZE IN THE VISUAL ARTS

The Council for the Arts at MIT and the MIT Student Art Association invite all registered MIT students to submit works of visual art (2 dimensional, 3 dimensional, and video) to the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Visual Arts Competition

Submissions will be accepted on Monday, April 4, 2005 between 12noon – 5:00pm at the Student Art Association (W20-429)

FIRST Prize \$1500

SECOND Prize \$900

THIRD Prize \$600

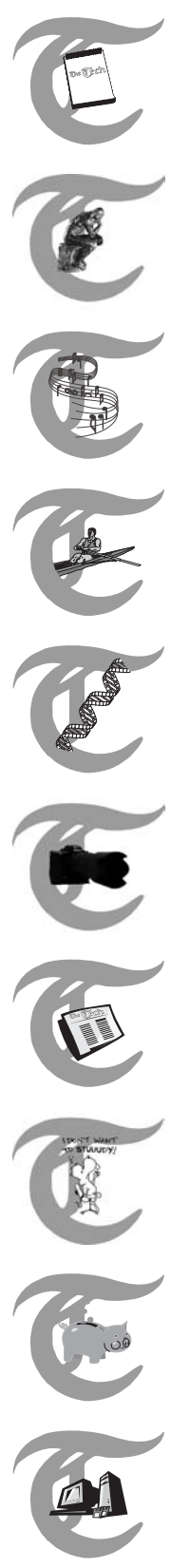
Winners must be willing and able to display their work in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery. The show will hang in the gallery during commencement, from late May 2005 through June 30, 2005

Schnitzer Prize Applications are available at the Student Art Association (W20-429), Campus Activities Complex (W20-500), and the Office of the Arts (E15-205)

You may also download the material from the SAA web page: <http://web.mit.edu/saa/schnitzer.html>

Winners will be announced on Monday April 11, 2005

If you plan to enter the Schnitzer competition, please send a confirmation email to cohen@media.mit.edu with “Schnitzer Prize” in the subject line



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Apr. 4 & 5 Lobby 10

Apr. 6, 7 & 8 Sloan Lobby (E52)

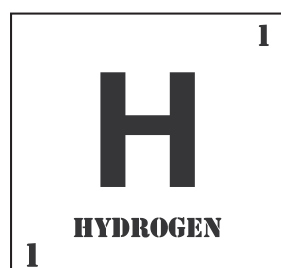
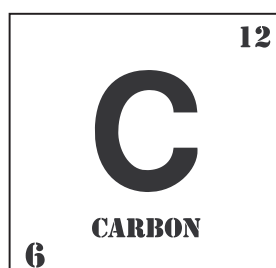
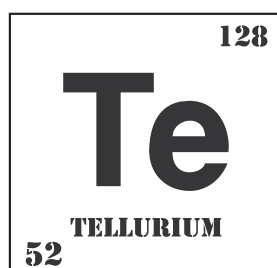
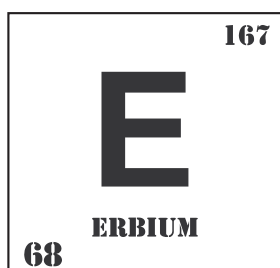
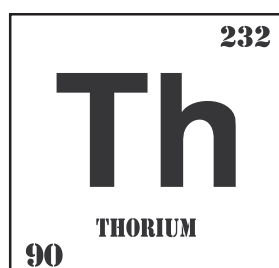


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<http://gsc.mit.edu/ring>

* limited quantities



The Elements of a Good Newspaper



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Many Events Slated For Spring Weekend

Spring Weekend, from Page 1

Banks has built his popularity on his works on the mixtapes.

Drag show, LipSync among events

Spring Weekend will kick off Thursday night with the Fierce Forever Drag show. On Friday, the iFair will be held in Kresge Oval during the day. Events such as Alpha Chi Omega's LipSync, bands on the steps, a barbeque in the pits, and Habitat for Humanity's Campus Build will be held on Saturday. The weekend will end with the MIT Holi Dance, where people throw colored powder at each other to celebrate the Spring, sponsored by the Hindu Student Council.

Spring Weekend has existed since the 1960s. In 1969, Janice

Joplin performed, and R.E.M. headlined in 1985. In the 1980s, Spring Weekend funding came from a Campus Activities Committee Programming Board, which collected money for hiring the bands from the gameroom and coffeehouse in the Student Center, said Linda D. Noel, program coordinator for student activities. Today, Spring Weekend costs about \$100,000 to run, with \$40,000-50,000 allocated for the featured band.

Tickets available online

Since Johnson can only hold 3000 people, MIT students can purchase their tickets in advance online. Tickets, which go on sale Friday, are \$10 for MIT students and \$15 for non-MIT students.

Spring Weekend Schedule

Wednesday Night

Kick Off, Free Mike's Pastries, Ticket Sales

Thursday Night

Fierce Forever Drag Show

Friday Daytime

iFair

Friday Evening

Concert: Fabolous & Lloyd Banks (co-headlining)

Saturday Daytime

Bands, BBQ, Habitat for Humanity Campus Build

Saturday Evening

AXO Lip Sync

Sunday

Holi Dance

SOURCE: CINDY X. YUAN '05, A MEMBER OF THE SPRING WEEKEND COMMITTEE

Join us in April for this insightful conference:

Our Brains and Us: Neuroethics, Responsibility, and the Self

April 17-19, 2005

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- What is Neuroscience? What is Neuroethics?
- What implications do the neurosciences have for understanding human freedom, moral agency, and legal responsibility?
- What insights do the neurosciences provide into the concepts of the self?
- What opportunities do the neurosciences provide for therapy, for neurological enhancement, or for the exercise of social, economic, and political influence?

This conference brings together scientists, philosophers, members of diverse religious communities, and the public for a multifaceted, interdisciplinary and multi-traditional dialogue about the neurosciences and questions like those above.

It provides an opportunity to explore a range of emerging ethical, religious and philosophical issues associated with neuroscience research and its present and foreseeable applications.

For additional information about the conference, accommodations, and online registration visit:

www.aaas.org/spp/dser/



The conference has been organized through a primary collaboration among



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HOW TO USE THE BATHROOM.

You're probably saying to yourself, any four-year-old knows how to use the bathroom. But you may not know that you use more water in the bathroom than anywhere else in your home. In fact, between the toilet, the shower and the sink you can use up to 55 gallons a day. Multiply that by the number of homes in the world, and that's a lot of natural resources going down the drain. Now, we're not saying you should stop taking showers or brushing your teeth. We're just suggesting some simple bathroom training. For instance, when you're brushing your teeth, turn off the water. Do the same when you're shaving. And just because your shower sounds like an opera hall, don't feel the need to sing one. Shorter songs make for shorter showers. And for the biggest culprit of them all, the toilet, try putting a weighted jug in your toilet tank. It will help save water every time you flush. Plus, don't forget to turn out the lights when you leave. You'll be helping to conserve electricity.

Save up to 15% more water by installing a weighted jug in your toilet tank.

And oh yeah, if you don't think you'll remember these things, take this newspaper with you the next time you go. This message brought to you by the 43 environmental charities that make up Earth Share.

For more tips or information on how you can help, visit EarthShare.org, call 1-800-234-2263, or write to Earth Share, 2400 International Drive NW, Suite 2K, (AD2), Washington, D.C. 20008.

The Production Department's Word of the Day

Gob: 1) A small mass or lump. 2) A large quantity. 3) A sailor.

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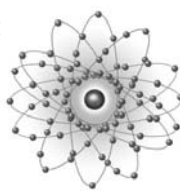
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Increased Capacity Needed for SafeRide

SafeRide, from Page 1

The demand for transportation services is increasing, said Larry Brutti, Operations Manager for MIT Parking and Transport. "However, it's really eating up the equipment. These vehicles are running 18 hours a day. We're in the process of upgrading to transit-type vehicles with 10 to 12 year lifespans versus the current 3 to 4."

Currently, the largest capacity buses hold 22-28 passengers while the smaller vans only have capacity for 14. The proposed new vehicles for the SafeRide routes may include room for as many as 38 people sitting and standing. Buses with room for 48 passengers (28 seated and 20 standing) would replace current shuttles for the TechShuttle and Northwest Shuttle.

Brutti said the Parking and Transportation Office has been coordinating its efforts with the Disabilities Services Office and the Environmental Health and Safety Office.

The new vehicles will differ from the current fleet in that they will use bio-diesel fuel to improve efficiency and reduce emissions. The new fleet will continue to be handicapped accessible.

Saferide schedule extended

The Boston Winter Shuttle service has been extended through Spring Break to Friday, April 1. The service was originally slated to end on the Friday before Spring Break. The request and funding came from the Division for Student Life.

He also said the Winter Shuttle will have an extended schedule next year.

Three Named as Goldwater Scholars

Three MIT undergraduates are among the 320 recently-named Barry Goldwater Scholars, receiving a prestigious national award given annually to sophomores and juniors planning careers in science and engineering.

News Brief

The three winners from MIT are Jacob Fox '06, a mathematics major who plans to pursue a PhD in mathematics with a focus on combinatorics, Kevin K. Miu '06, a mechanical engineering major who plans to obtain an MD/PhD in biomechanics, and Alicia Y. Zhou '06, a biology major who plans to obtain a PhD in cancer biology. Fox and Zhou plan to conduct research at the university level, while Miu would like to "create prosthetics and other devices that can aid in daily routines and contribute to an improved quality of life," according to the list of winners.

The Goldwater Scholars receive up to \$7,500 for each of their remaining undergraduate academic years. Goldwater scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Of this year's 320 scholarship recipients, 239 are majoring in science, 45 in engineering, 27 in mathematics, and 9 in computer science related majors, according to a press release from the Goldwater program. There are 165 male scholars and 155 female scholars. Universities can nominate up to four students to be considered for the awards, which honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater.

—Kelley Rivoire

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When: 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Where: Career Services Building 12, Room 170

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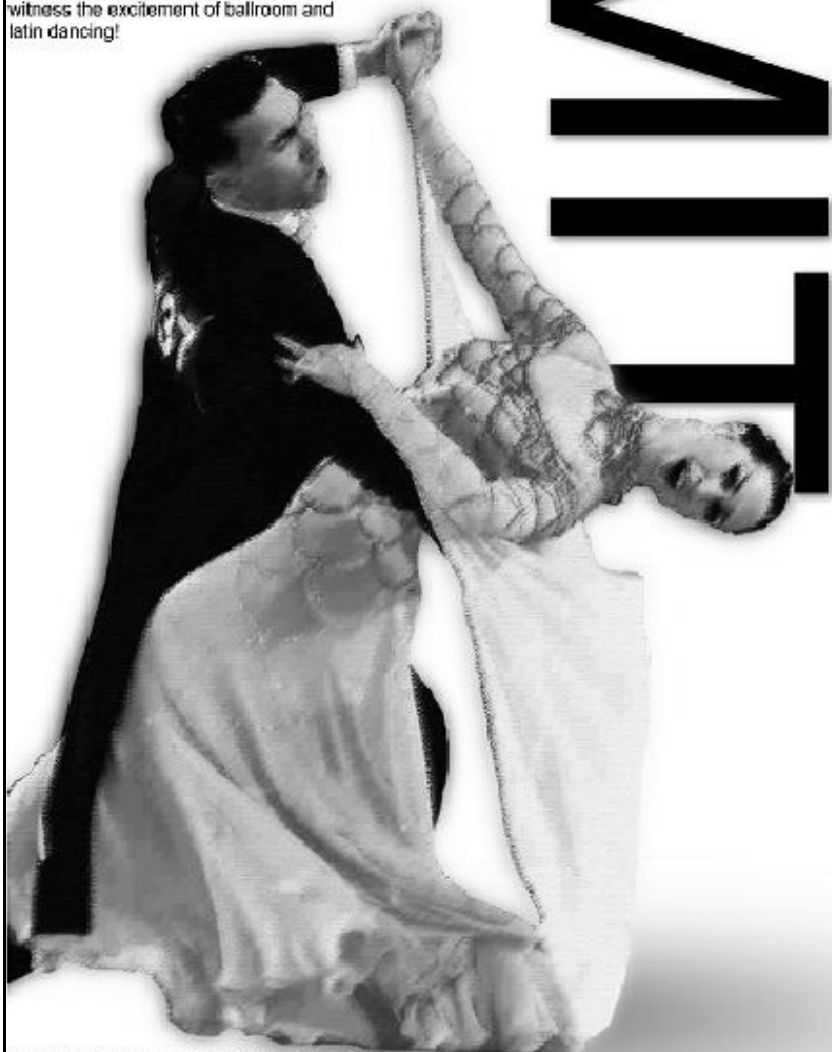
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MIT Competition

Featured Show - 6:30pm, April 2
Victor Fung and Anna Mikhed
 2004 British Open Rising Star Standard Champions
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The Ninth Annual MIT Open Ballroom Dance Competition
 April 2-3, 2005 * Rockwell Gym * MIT

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<http://ballroom.mit.edu/comp>

It's Back! Summer Resident Assistant Positions

Benefits

- Free, guaranteed Summer Housing!
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- Summer Leadership opportunity!

Job Summary

The Summer RA is a fundamental part of the success in the Summer Housing experience. Students hired for this position will be responsible for building community in their building, for having a presence in their assigned area, and for being a resource to students in terms of information about services available to students or contacting the appropriate people on campus in case of a crisis.

Eligibility

In order to be considered for the Summer RA position, a student must qualify for Summer Housing under the guidelines set out by the Housing Office (see *Student Life Handbook*, pages 53-54). In addition, all applicants must be registered for classes at MIT in the Fall 2005 semester. Graduating seniors will only be considered for the Summer RA position if they have been accepted into an MIT graduate program that will begin in the Fall 2005 semester. Applicants must have lived in an on-campus dorm for a *minimum* of two years. Applicants must currently be in good standing both academically and disciplinarily, and must remain so throughout the term of employment.

Come to an Information Session to learn more :

- March 15, 3:00-4:00 PM, PDR1/2 in the Student Center
- March 31, 7:30-8:30 PM, MacGregor Dining
- April 4, 7:30-8:30 PM, Talbot Lounge, East Campus

For an application and more information, go to our website:
web.mit.edu/residence

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 -Saint Augustine 354 A.D.

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OCW Materials Translated into Various Languages

OCW, from Page 1

a major philosophical shift from the mid-1990s, when colleges and educators alike protected their course materials and teaching methods for private use and monetary gain. The name of the project is an allusion to open-source software, in which programmers use the Web to make their individual computer codes available to others on the condition that any future advances made are also similarly posted back to them.

MIT was one of the first to espouse the idea of open sharing. Since then, OCW projects at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Utah State University have been introduced. The two programs were launched in February of this year.

OCW's projects are not intended as a replacement for a secondary education. No credit or degrees will be granted. Associate Dean of Engineering Dick K. P. Yue '74, one of the people who initially came up with the idea of OCW, describes the project as "not a door, more like a window" for those outside MIT.

OCW "is a way for MIT in particular, but the modern higher education [in general], not to fall into this area where educational content is viewed in a monetary way," Yue said.

Chair of the Faculty Steven R. Lerman '72 presented the project as a challenge to the "privatization of

knowledge" and a way to encourage the world-wide dissemination of educational ideas.

Selecting courses

OCW staff select departments and classes to put on the Web with diversity in mind. Each subject put up generally includes a syllabus, course notes, lecture notes, exams, problem sets, and handouts.

Due to limited funding, very few classes are videotaped. These are all done with the permission of the instructor.

Videotaped lectures are usually ones that would garner the widest audiences and also at the same time provide some value back to the MIT faculty.

According to OCW's own criteria for video selection, videos should capture "unique exercises, demonstrations, and field experiences that fulfill the desire of self-learners for rich curriculum units and enhance the learning processes back at MIT."

A model for other schools

Anne H. Margulies, executive director for OCW, hopes that OCW will provide a model other universities can use to develop their own OCWs.

"What we hope to do over time is to give a view not only of just a course, but of an entire progression of study over a period of time," said

Margulies.

As of now, only MIT has promised to put up every undergraduate subject. Other colleges would also like to put up courses, but most are restricted due to funding limitations. Some also believe that it is not necessary to put up again what MIT has already done.

MIT's Stellar Web site now holds many of the school's internal sites and require student certificates for access. Some of them are in the process of being transferred to external sites on OCW.

Formal translating partners

MIT is currently officially affiliated with two programs that translate OCW, Universia.net, representing the Spanish and Portuguese countries, and the China Open Resource for Education, representing mainland China. Native speakers regularly check the quality of translations on both sites.

Universia.net is maintained by a Madrid-based consortium of universities and is responsible for translating MIT's OCW material into Spanish and Portuguese.

CORE's mission is to coordinate and utilize OCW from MIT to enhance the quality of education in China. Currently, CORE has a membership of more than 70 Chinese universities and a total enrollment of five million students. Its programs include a Chinese and

English Web site, annual conferences, training sessions, and seminars.

CORE hopes not only to translate all of MIT's courses into simplified Chinese text but also to put up courses on the Web that are unique to China for other worldwide viewers.

Surging Taiwan effort not affiliated

Luc Chu, a professional translator who just finished translating J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, in collaboration with MIT alumnus Frank Liu '66, a retired venture capitalist, decided to take it upon themselves to translate MIT's OCW site into the traditional Chinese characters for the benefit of the Taiwanese public.

The venture was named Open-source OCW Prototype System (O.O.P.S.). Its advisory board includes experts in publishing, television, electronic media, and volunteer translators.

As of now, O.O.P.S. has successfully translated 17 courses, and 69 more are near completion. This task was accomplished in eight months with a mere \$3,000.

Chu allows the translators to have a say in which courses should be translated first, since it is the volunteers that are doing most of the work.

OCW faces various concerns

Faculty participation in OCW is

completely voluntary.

Initially, faculty members were concerned about the quality of the material placed online. Some thought that OCW may reflect poorly on the Institute if not carefully coordinated. Others felt that the publication of course material would detract from sales of their books, which may incorporate similar information.

At the initiation of the project, some believed that OCW may devalue an MIT education and take faculty time away from students.

Earlier in the year, Dean of Student Life Robert Redwine confidently fended off these suggestions.

"The essence of an MIT education is what happens on campus," he said. "What would people think if we charged them our tuition and sent them a large box of books? In some ways, OpenCourseWare is analogous to that box of books."

Statistics have shown that enrollment has not been hurt by OCW and that in fact, 16 percent of prospective MIT students know about OCW and use it to help decide whether or not to attend MIT.

MIT uses OCW internally

Seventy-three percent of MIT upperclassmen undergraduates use the OCW site to complement materials from courses that they are taking, to plan a course of study and to review materials for courses they have completed.

Fifty-three percent of incoming freshmen are aware of the site, 16 percent say that it influenced their decision to come to MIT.

Peaks in traffic occur during MIT's registration and exam weeks. Students say that OCW allows them to have increased access to information and to better shop for classes before the term starts.

OCW funding

OCW is currently supported by the Mellon Foundation and the Hewlett Foundation.

Benefits accrued by those outside of MIT is the true reason why OCW was initiated. Yue believes that many faculty support the project because it "appeals to the moral higher ground" by forgoing any attempts to commercialize the information.

"If MIT sets a good standard and model of how to do it, other people will follow," Yue said. "Then we would have truly changed the landscape."

Department of Materials Science and Engineering

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Solution to KRT Crossword

from page 11

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L	E	A	U	P	E	N	N	I	C	E	R	S
U	K	R	P	I	A	N	O	P	L	A	Y	E
N	O	T	C	H	E	S	B	U	L	L		
K	E	Y	H	O	L	E	S	P	E	P	P	E
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S	C	O	T	I	A	O	R	G	R	D	A	S
T	O	A	E	R	O	S	O	L	A	T	E	
U	S	P	S	S	O	N	B	A	L	L	O	T
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T	R	E	S	S	H	A	T	E	D	R	O	E

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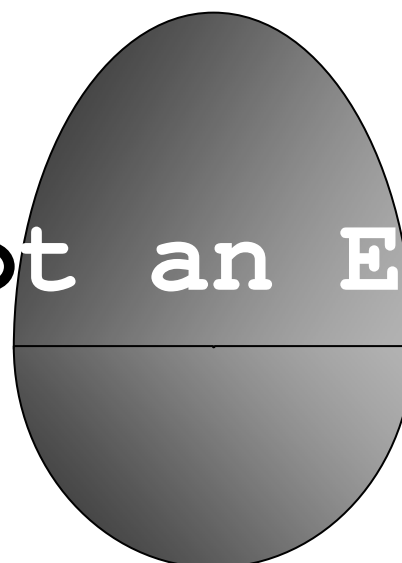


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Tuesday, March 29 at 8:00 p.m.
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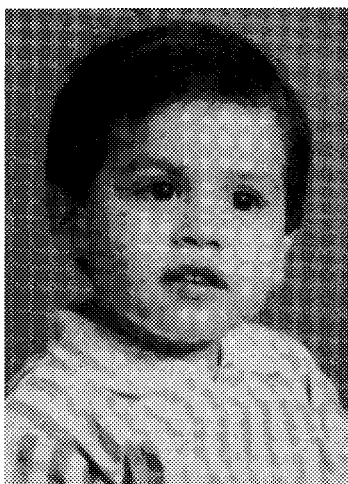


Easter is all about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Come find out more and help us **celebrate!** Eat free food, praise God, and learn about the relevance of Easter.

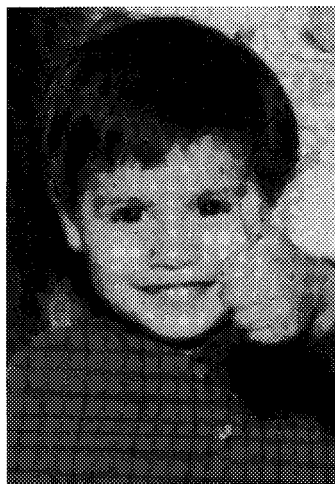
<http://web.mit.edu/mitccc/easter>



2 weeks old, 1989



1 year old, 1991



2 years old, 1992

Stevie Ace Flores.

*Killed by a drunk driver on March 23, 1993,
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Department of
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SPORTS

Men's Swimming Team Places 10th at Div. III Championships

By Jonathan A. Goler
TEAM ALUMNUS

In an impressive showing, the MIT Men's Swimming team took 10th place out of 56 teams at the NCAA Division III National championship at Hope College in Michigan.

Coach Dawn Gerken said, "We really surprised a lot of people, and our 10th place finish really shows the level of athletes that our program is fielding."

Leading off the event, the 200 freestyle relay of Jonathan S. Varsanik '05, Craig M. Edwards '07, Matthieu Fuzellier G, and Grady A. Snyder '06 took 10th place with a time of 1:24.74. Then, the team of Edwards, Captain JP

Carlucci '05, Fuzellier and Snyder placed fourth in the 400 Medley Relay and clinched All American standing with a time of 3:24.09.

On the second day, the team of Edwards, Varsanik, Carlucci, and Snyder started the day by taking fifth in the 200 Medley Relay. JP Carlucci swam into 20th place in the 100 Breaststroke, while Craig Edwards tied for third in the 100 Backstroke, coming back with an impressive second half. Fuzellier took 15th in the same event with a time of 52.25. Finishing off the second day, the team of Josiah B. Rosmarin '06, Calvin D. Kao '08, Snyder, and Edwards took 10th in the 800 Free Relay with a time of 6:56.16, touching out rival Springfield College.

The third day began with a fifth

place finish by Edwards in the 200 Backstroke with a time of 1:50.76. Snyder and JP Carlucci took 26th place in the 100 free and 200 breaststroke preliminaries, respectively. The MIT team finished out the championship with a win in the consolation finals of the 400 Freestyle relay with a time of 3:06.02.

The final standings put MIT at 135.5 (10th place), a half point under traditional rival Springfield, but far ahead of rivals Amherst, the Coast Guard, and Tufts.

"A lot of coaches came up and said how impressed they are with our team," remarked Gerken, further noting that it was the whole team that deserves credit for their hard work in making it to the national competition.

Synch. Swimming Ends Season with 7th Place At ECAC Competition

By Victoria K. Anderson
TEAM ALUMNA

The MIT Synchronized Swimming Team closed out its second competitive season by hosting the 2005 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Synchronized Swimming Championships March 19-20,

finishing in seventh place out of 11 teams with 40.5 points. Canisius College won the meet with 92 points, while MIT placed above Mary Washington, the University of Rhode Island, Pennsylvania State University, and Harvard University.

Leading the way for MIT was Leah C. Blasiak G, who finished fifth in the novice technical figure category with a score of 57.459 and took seventh place in the solo competition with a score of 69.833.

Blasiak's placement in the solo competition was especially impressive given that she was pitted against five athletes who made finals at the national championships the following weekend.

Blasiak also helped contribute to MIT's point total by teaming with Karen L. Chu '08 and Lucia T. Tian '08 in the trio competition, where they placed ninth with a score of 64.500. Chu and Tian also paired for the duet competition, where they scored points for MIT by finishing 12th with a score of 60.000.

The team competition, arguably the most exciting event of the weekend, saw MIT's team of Blasiak, Chu, Jianwen W. Gu G, Adele A. Schwab '08, and Tian finish in ninth place with a score of 66.417.

Though the team's competitive season is finished, they will be hosting an exhibition in April.

MIT Hosts Boston Open Badminton Tournament

The 2005 Boston Open badminton tournament took place from March 25-27 in Rockwell Cage, featuring top-ranked players from Canada, Russia, and the USA.

(left) Men's doubles champion Pascal Gagnon jumps for a smash.

(below) Women's doubles champion Lili Zhou fields the shuttlecock.

Photography by Jonathan Wang



Reasons March Madness Can Make the Apathetic Love College Basketball

By Travis Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Every year, I come into March thinking I don't care about college basketball. I've only watched a handful of games played by my hometown Wisconsin Badgers, and I know next to nothing about everyone else in the country.

But every year, I leave March a total basketball addict, my nose a few inches from the screen for every second of the Final Four.

What does March Madness have that makes it so thrilling every year? I count ten things:

10) The field is huge and includes conference tournament winners that wouldn't make a normal tournament format. Result: UW-Milwaukee and West Virginia University give us five entertaining upsets over teams with bigger names.

9) Neutral sites mean fans from both teams, seas of blue and red, cheerleaders from both teams, and excitement no matter who is winning.

8) By the time the Final Four comes around, the teams have played enough games with enough coverage that we feel like we've gotten to know them. I can name the coaches and a few players on all the teams in the Final Four, most of which I've learned in these past two weekends.

7) The players are kids our age. That means we can connect with them, or in my case just sit in awe at

how strong they are.

6) The TV coverage by CBS caters to people like me who know nothing when the tournament starts. They make it easy to jump right in and find a team or player to care about. Some of the announcers are obnoxious, but at least it isn't Dick Vitale himself.

5) The games are somehow always very close. Whether you credit scholarship caps, a deeper talent pool, or desperation of teams when they fall behind, you've got to love day after day of barn-burners.

4) Upsets. Everyone loves the underdog, and because of the one-and-done format, we get plenty of Hoosiers moments where the favored teams is booted out of the tournament by the little guy.

3) Every game is game 7, do or die, win or go home. And for seniors who aren't going pro, which are most of them, losing means the end of your career. Result: intense play, tears of joy, and cries of pain.

2) The brackets. There is so much luck involved that any bozo can predict the tournament better than ESPN columnists. The whole country fills them out, giving people who normally have no interest in sports a reason to watch.

1) The excitement and energy of basketball comes through on TV better than any other sport. Down the stretch, when every pass and shot are contested and every two-pointer seems like a miracle, there is nothing in the world as entertaining as college basketball.

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