

## Through MITBlogs, Undergrads Connect to Future Class of '10

By Benjamin P. Gleitzman  
STAFF REPORTER

For teens applying to big name schools, there is little in life more stressful than the college application process. Sleepless nights, constant anxiety, and frequent perspiration are some of the all-too-familiar signs that application deadlines are drawing near. But thanks to MITBlogs, prospective students can take comfort with the knowledge that admissions officers are not cold, distant, antiquated white men in wigs, betting on horses and playing cribbage while sorting your application to MIT with the roll of a die.

MITBlogs is helping Ben Jones, communication manager for the admissions office and designer of "MyMIT," along with the rest of the MIT admissions staff, take the fright out of college admissions (and they're having fun in the process).

Those who have not read Jones' weblog of Ben Jones might be surprised to hear of his infatuation with "The OC," a television drama on the Fox Network. In fact, many students would be hard-pressed to name interests they have in common with admissions officers. "MITBlogs," part of the web portal "MyMIT," is intended to personalize the admis-



Anthony C. Rizos '09 types up a new post for his blog while sitting in an East Campus lounge. As an admissions blogger, Rizos is paid for the hours he spends sharing his experiences as an MIT freshman.

sions process and allow students to experience firsthand life at MIT firsthand.

Weblogs, or blogs, are not a new

Blogs, Page 15

## MIT Receives Grant to Prevent Violence

By Kirtana Raja

MIT received a \$200,000 Violence Against Women grant this year from the Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women. MIT Health Educator Laura A. Stuart said that the grant is expected to fund new programs and services, as well as improve MIT policies concerning the issues of sexual assault, violence in dating and stalking.

The grant money will be used to

accomplish four general goals: to establish a Community Response Group (CRG), train campus police and update their violence response equipment, develop a campus policy on sexual violence, and create programs to train incoming undergraduate and graduate students and develop a new protocol for MIT Medical to treat violence victims. Stuart said that the police department is thrilled with the grant and is moving quickly

towards training their staff and obtaining the needed equipment.

The grant was first announced in August of this year by William M. Kettle, director of MIT Medical, who recognized both Stuart and Maryanne Kirkbride, clinical director for campus life, as key players in leading the effort to obtain this grant. This is the first year that MIT applied

Grant, Page 16

### In Short

¶ **Allegations of scientific misconduct in missile defense** at Lincoln Laboratory remain under review by the Institute. A panel chaired by Associate Provost Canizares has been charged with investigating the policies and procedures that complicated the case and recommending changes to avoid similar incidents, President Hockfield told the faculty Wednesday. Hockfield is participating in discussions "at a very high level" with the Department of Defense regarding a possible investigation, she said.

A feature in Sunday's *Boston Globe Magazine* will address the misconduct scandal.

¶ **An overhaul of the student discipline system** was recommended by a special committee and presented to the faculty Wednesday by Chair of the Faculty Lorna J. Gibson, who chaired the committee.

The committee's report focuses on maintaining a single procedural pathway for all disciplinary complaints.

The report is online at <http://web.mit.edu/dept/libdata/libdepts/d/archives/facmin/051019/0510b.pdf>. The report's procedures would replace the current practice, now documented at <http://web.mit.edu/committees/cod/>.

¶ **MIT received a \$25 million gift** to endow undergraduate financial aid from an alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous. President Hockfield announced the gift during Wednesday's faculty meeting.

¶ **Rebates for Harvard-MIT Coop members increased** 20 percent from last year to 7.3 percent.

¶ **The 41st Head of the Charles regatta** will take place on Saturday (9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) and Sunday (7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.) on the Charles River. Viewing is especially good from the BU and Harvard bridges at mid-day. Expect traffic delays in Cambridge. <http://www.hocr.org>.

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).

## Ideas for Mandatory \$10 Per Month T Pass Under Consideration

By Rosa Cao  
STAFF REPORTER

How often do you ride the T? Would you ride it more if you were required to pay for it? A proposed plan that would require all students and employees to pay \$10 monthly for unlimited local subway and bus service has touched off a minor firestorm. However, even if approved by MIT, the plan is unlikely to have any possibility of implementation until the end of 2007.

Although under a quarter of undergraduate students participate, MIT already has a substantial T-pass subsidy program, providing over 50,000 passes a year at half-price to students, faculty, and staff.

Universal T plan proposed

Last fall, former Department of Urban Studies and Planning graduate student Ursula Hester MCP '04 laid the groundwork for a possible "Unlimited Access Pass Program" (or U-Pass plan) as part of her Master's thesis, with support from Frederick P. Salvucci, senior lecturer in the Center for Transportation and Logistics and former Massachusetts transportation secretary.

Reactions to the proposal ranged from support to complaints of unfairness after Andréa E. Schmidt G of the GSC Housing and Community Affairs committee initiated discussion of "Potential large

T Pass, Page 17

## MIT Groups Plan Relief After Asian Earthquake

By Daniela Cako  
STAFF REPORTER

After an earthquake of 7.6 magnitude on the Richter scale struck Pakistan on Oct. 8, members of the Pakistani Students at MIT (PAK-SMIT), immediately gathered to organize relief efforts. The group, which consists of about 20 MIT students, has set up collection stalls in Lobby 10, the Stata Center, and Building E52.

United Nations and Pakistani officials reported a death toll of nearly 50,000 yesterday. Landslides and falling rocks have flattened parts of northern Pakistan and blocked routes, making access to help a challenge.

"The amount of destruction is highly unimaginable," said Faisal M. Kashif G, who is from Pakistan. His close friends and classmates have lost

a total of more than 18 family members, and one has lost both parents, Kashif said.

Some disaster relief events initially planned for Hurricane Katrina relief will now support victims of the Pakistani earthquake as well. Rany Woo '08 began planning over a month ago for an event that will help both Katrina and Pakistan Earthquake victims. The Intercollegiate Benefit Concert, to be held on Nov. 6 at 3 p.m., will feature a cappella groups and bands from MIT, Wellesley College, Berklee College of Music, and Brandeis University. Tickets sales for the event start today in the Student Center, with a minimum donation of \$5.

Recommended charities for relief for victims of the Pakistani earthquake are listed on the PAKSMIT Web site at <http://web.mit.edu/paksmit/www>.



Poet Anselm Berrigan reads a serial poem entitled "Have a Good One" as part of the Poetry@MIT Series. Along with poet Tom Raworth, Berrigan shared his words yesterday evening in the Stata Center.



Comics

Page 11



ARTS

Festival Jazz, Wind Ensembles Delight Visiting Families

Page 6

NEWS

New GRE to Debut Next October Page 14

College Board Study Finds Tuition Outpaces Inflation

Page 16

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Arts	6
Police Log	17
Sports	20

# WORLD & NATION

## DeLay Quietly Surrenders To a Texas Sheriff

By Bill Dawson and Carl Hulse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON

Rep. Tom DeLay, forced by criminal charges to step aside last month as House majority leader, was fingerprinted, photographed and released on \$10,000 bond Thursday after turning himself in at the Harris County sheriff's office in downtown Houston.

The booking photo of DeLay, whose surrender was carefully choreographed, showed him smiling, his congressional pin visible on his suit lapel, and did not include booking numbers that many associate with a mug shot. His allies on Capitol Hill joked that the picture was suitable for the Congressional Directory.

"I just may use that photograph for my family Christmas photo," Kevin Madden, a spokesman for DeLay, said in Washington.

DeLay had been expected to surrender in adjacent Fort Bend County, his home. By doing so here instead, he avoided a scrum of about 25 journalists waiting outside the Fort Bend sheriff's office, many with cameras. Democrats were thus deprived of powerful videotape.

## New Orleans Mayor Commits To Rebuilding Two Neighborhoods

By Christine Hauser

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS

Mayor C. Ray Nagin gave a firm commitment Thursday to the rebuilding of the destroyed Ninth Ward and New Orleans East, clearing up doubts that had grown in the city about whether his administration would allow residents to return to the hard-hit areas.

"Read my lips," he said. "We will rebuild New Orleans East. We will rebuild the Lower Ninth Ward."

For weeks, residents of the neighborhoods have chafed at their inability to inspect their property, having been prevented from returning by official concerns about safety and openly expressing concern that they might never be allowed to rebuild. Many houses in the Lower Ninth Ward, east of the Industrial Canal, were destroyed, with some swept off their foundations after Katrina's floodwaters spilled over surrounding levees.

Then on Tuesday, appearing before a House subcommittee in Washington, the mayor seemed to suggest that the future of the neighborhoods remained an open question. According to *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*, he told lawmakers that the questions of how to protect the areas east of the canal had "not been answered yet."

## Article Says Diabetes Pill Would Increase Coronary Risks

By Stephanie Saul

THE NEW YORK TIMES

An article in a leading medical journal said Thursday that a proposed diabetes pill, Pargluva, seemed to significantly increase heart attack and stroke risks. An accompanying editorial said the drug's sponsors, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Merck, had been "disingenuous" in submitting data to the Food and Drug Administration that "may have fostered an illusion of safety."

The authors, two Cleveland Clinic cardiologists who sounded alarms about Vioxx in 2001, called for a major safety study of Pargluva before it goes on the market.

The companies had been counting on selling the drug by late this year. The timetable was delayed earlier this week when the FDA told them that Pargluva was approvable but only after it reviewed more safety data from completed studies. The type of safety study called for by the journal would mean that Pargluva would not reach consumers for at least two years, if at all.

# Up to 3 Million Earthquake Survivors Still Need Shelter

By Somini Sengupta and David Rohde

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

U.N. and private aid workers said Thursday that the pressing need to shelter up to 3 million Pakistani earthquake survivors before the harsh Himalayan winter sets in was threatening to become the most difficult relief operation the world has ever faced.

Compounding the problems posed by the sheer number of people displaced — three times as many as those affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami last December — are the mountainous terrain and the onset of a winter that is likely to arrive in less than three weeks and sever the stricken mountain hamlets of the north from the rest of the country until spring.

And yet, whether out of fatigue after a year of seemingly endless natural disasters or simply because the quake struck in Pakistan, aid officials say, the international response has been weak. Even in the face of the epic destruction, foreign donors have so far pledged less than \$90 million, or barely a quarter of the

\$312 million that the United Nations estimates it will need for immediate relief.

"It's the most difficult humanitarian crisis ever," said Andrew Macleod, chief operations officer in the U.N. Emergency Coordination Center in Islamabad, "because the scale is huge, the logistics are so difficult and there's such a brutal winter coming on." In recent days, as his office assessed the damage across the far-flung hamlets dotting the Himalayas, the most credible estimates turned out to be "the worst-case scenarios," Macleod said.

"We have never seen anything like this," he added. The quake struck an isolated, mountainous area of about 11,000 square miles, roughly the size of Maryland.

The death toll has risen to 49,700, Pakistan's disaster response chief, Maj. Gen. Farooq Javed, said Thursday. The injured were tallied at 74,000. The earthquake struck portions of North-West Frontier Province and the Pakistani-controlled section of Kashmir.

About 1,300 people were killed and 30,000 families left homeless in the neighboring Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir. India this week

opened up phone lines for families on its side to communicate with friends and relatives on the Pakistani side.

At a news conference on Tuesday night, Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, suggested that the Line of Control that divides the Pakistani and Indian parts of Kashmir be opened as well.

India, which has sent three consignments of quake relief to Pakistan, has welcomed the proposal in principle but has said it awaits details of how it would work. The spokeswoman for the Pakistani Foreign Office, Tasnim Aslam, said Thursday evening that discussions about logistics were under way within her government.

Comprehending the scope of the crisis and deciding how to respond are extremely difficult. It is next to impossible to count the number of hamlets and homes scattered in the hills, and no accurate population count exists.

Of the few roads that cross the hills and valleys, many have been cut off, and the continuing aftershocks prompt landslides that block them all over again. The people who live in the hills are unable or unwilling to abandon their land and go down to the lowlands, where aid is available.

# UN Investigates Assad In-Law In Murder of Lebanese Leader

By John Kifner and Warren Hoge

THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. investigation into the murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is focusing on the powerful brother-in-law of Syrian President Bashar Assad as the main suspect, a diplomat with intimate knowledge of the probe said Thursday.

The diplomat spoke as a long-awaited U.N. report on the killing made public on Thursday said that it was a carefully planned terrorist act organized by high-ranking Syrian and Lebanese intelligence officers.

Though the report did not include names, the diplomat said that the investigators were focusing on Syria's military intelligence chief Asef Shawkat, the president's brother-in-law.

"Their main lead is that he is the ringleader," the diplomat said. "This is where it is heading."

The U.N. investigator, Detlev Mehlis, has been given an extension until December to continue his inquiry. He said that in four months his commission had interviewed more than 400 people, reviewed 60,000 documents and arrested four high-level officials of the Lebanese "security and intelligence apparatus."

"There is evidence in abundance," said the diplomat. "But to get every piece of the puzzle, they need more time." He spoke on condition of anonymity because of what he described as the extreme sensitivity of the matter.

Shawkat is considered the second-most-powerful man in Syria and has been seen as a likely candidate to take over the country if the embattled Assad were removed from office.

The diplomat, describing Syria as a "country run by a little family clique," said the involvement of anyone in Assad's inner circle would be a severe blow to the regime.

"There is absolutely no doubt; it goes right to the top," he said. "This is Murder, Inc."

The U.N. report, from German prosecutor Mehlis, said the killing last February was carried out by "a group with an extensive organization and considerable resources and capabilities."

The report said, "There is converging evidence pointing at both Lebanese and Syrian involvement in this terrorist act."

The 54-page report said the crime had been planned "over many months" and that the movements of Hariri and the convoy he traveled in had been closely monitored with his "itineraries recorded in detail."

# WEATHER

## Hurricane Wilma Shatters Records

By Jon Moskaitis

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As Katrina churned through the Gulf of Mexico in late August, it strengthened into the fourth most intense hurricane (as measured by its lowest surface pressure, 902 mb) ever observed in the Atlantic basin. Now, not even two months later, Katrina ranks as the third most intense hurricane to form this year (making her sixth on the all-time list). She falls behind Rita, which bottomed out at 897 mb in late September, and Wilma, which attained a surface pressure of 882 mb early Wednesday morning. Wilma's surface pressure is the lowest ever recorded in an Atlantic basin storm. Perhaps more impressive than this peak intensity is the astonishingly short time interval Wilma needed to reach it. In 24 hours, she dropped 100 mb in surface pressure and gained 105 mph in maximum surface wind speed, going from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane in one day!

After weakening a bit yesterday, Wilma has now reorganized herself, and is expected to brush by Cozumel on the Mexican coast today as a Category 4 or Category 5 hurricane. Over the weekend, Wilma is forecasted to accelerate on a northeastward heading, crossing the Florida peninsula late Sunday. After that, Wilma will likely dissipate over the Atlantic. However, there is a slight chance that she could track just off the New England coast on Monday or Tuesday, as a weak hurricane. Keep in touch with forecast updates over the weekend to see if this becomes a more probable scenario.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny. High: 57°F (14°C)

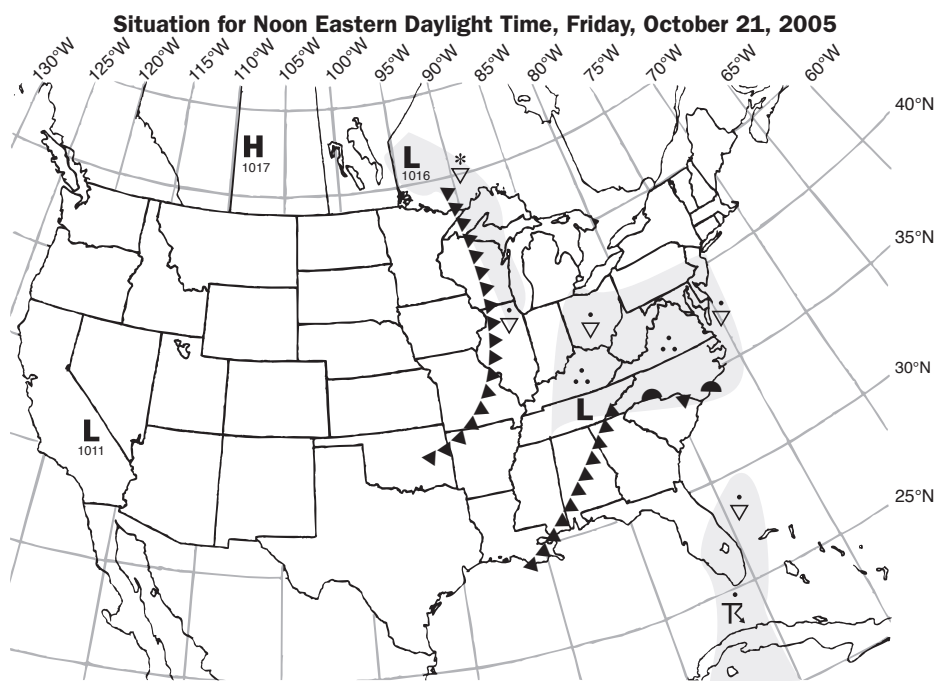
**Tonight:** Clear and cool. Low: 39°F (4°C)

**Saturday:** Sunny early, then increasing clouds and a chance of rain. High: 52°F (11°C)

**Saturday night:** Rain, windy. Low: 45°F (7°C)

**Sunday:** Windy, with rain likely. High: 55°F (13°C)

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy, showers possible. High: 57°F (14°C)



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	- - - Warm Front	Light *	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	- - - Cold Front	Moderate *	Haze
	- - - Stationary Front	Heavy *	
			Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Houses Approves Bill Shielding Firearm Industry From Lawsuits

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Republican-controlled Congress delivered a long-sought victory to the gun industry on Thursday when the House, with considerable Democratic support, voted to shield firearms manufacturers and dealers from liability lawsuits. The bill now goes to President Bush, who has promised to sign it.

The gun liability bill has for years been the No. 1 legislative priority of the National Rifle Association, which has lobbied lawmakers intensely for it. Its final passage, by a vote of 283-144, reflects the changing politics of gun control, which many Democrats began shying away from after Al Gore, who promoted it, was defeated in the presidential election of 2000.

"It's a historic piece of legislation," said Wayne LaPierre, the association's executive vice president, who said the bill was the most significant victory for the gun lobby since Congress rewrote the federal gun control law in 1986. "As of Oct. 20, the Second Amendment is probably in the best shape in this country that it's been in decades."

The bill, which is identical to one approved in July by the Senate, is aimed at ending a spate of lawsuits by individuals and municipalities seeking to hold gun manufacturers and dealers liable for crimes committed with their weapons. While it bars such suits, the measure contains an exception allowing certain cases involving defective weapons or criminal behavior by a gunmaker or dealer, such as knowingly selling a weapon to someone who has failed a criminal background check.

Bush said in a statement that he looks forward to signing the bill, which he said would "further our efforts to stem frivolous lawsuits, which cause a logjam in America's courts, harm America's small businesses, and benefit a handful of lawyers at the expense of victims and consumers."

Backers of the measure say it is necessary to keep the American arms industry in business, while opponents say the law deprives gun violence victims of a legitimate right to sue. Dispirited gun safety advocates said they now expect attempts to dismiss nearly a dozen lawsuits around the country, and vowed to challenge the constitutionality of the bill in court.

"It's always been a tough fight, let's face that," said Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y., who was elected in 1996 after her husband was killed and her son injured by a gunman on the Long Island Rail Road. She added, "This is personal for me."

Fifty-nine Democrats joined 223 Republicans and the House's lone independent to pass the bill. The chief House sponsor of the bill, Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., said the measure received a boost in July, when Pentagon officials wrote a letter saying they supported the measure as a way to "safeguard our national security" by limiting lawsuits against companies that supply weapons to the military.

"There's a subtle undertow here about 'buy America,'" Stearns said, adding, "This bill has picked up a little bit of steam because of that."

Stearns said he had been working to pass the legislation for six years. But the big turning point came not in the House, which had previously passed a similar bill, but in the Senate, where Republicans have numbered 55 in the wake of the 2004 elections.

## Afghans Renew Protests Over Cleric's Killing

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Thousands of people demonstrated Thursday in the eastern city of Khost against the killing of a religious leader, calling for the government to find and punish the perpetrators and for the Pakistani government to take action against those plotting terrorist acts in Pakistan.

Maulavi Muhammad Khan, a pro-government member of the clerics council in Khost, was killed by a bomb in his mosque last Friday, in an attack that government officials have attributed to the Taliban and its al-Qaida allies.

Ten thousand people — religious clerics, shopkeepers, townspeople, villagers and university students — turned out Thursday at 9 a.m., the provincial police chief, Gen. Muhammad Ayub, said. "It was very large demonstration, and they were using very strong words," he said in a telephone interview.

The government news agency, Bakhtar, said there were hundreds of people at the demonstration, the second one inspired by Khan's death.

"People came from the districts; they had demands," Ayub said, summarizing the mood of the crowd. "They condemned al-Qaida and their activities and their supporters who conduct terrorist activities in Afghanistan. Killing a religious leader is like killing a nation, they said, and they condemned the bombing of a mosque, which is against Islam. They asked Pakistan to help and cooperate against those who conduct terrorist activities in Afghanistan, and the Afghan government to work harder and find the terrorists who did this."

## Bush Presses Abbas To Confront Armed Gangs

By Steven R. Weisman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush pressed the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, on Thursday to "confront the threat that armed gangs pose to a genuinely democratic Palestine" but cautioned that a Palestinian state living peacefully with Israel might not be established before Bush leaves office in 2009.

Meeting at the White House, Abbas and Bush promised to push the negotiating process with Israel forward, and Bush called on Israel, as he has many times, to ease conditions for Palestinians on the West Bank and stop expanding settlements there and in Jerusalem.

But there was no sign that any progress had been achieved on these or other issues over which Israel and the Palestinian leadership have been at odds since the pullout of Israeli settlers from Gaza in August.

An impasse also remained with Israel over the Palestinian demand for more freedom of movement in and out of Gaza and in the West Bank, where Israeli roadblocks and checkpoints are prevalent.

It remained unclear on Thursday evening to what extent American officials had reaffirmed their appeal to Abbas and his aides to renew and tighten requirements in legislative elections in January that would require candidates to renounce violence and "undemocratic" methods.

## Nigeria Reaches Pact to Pay Off Most Foreign Debt

By Lydia Polgreen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAKAR, SENEGAL

Nigeria reached an agreement on Thursday to pay off most of the debt it owes to foreign creditors at a steep discount, a significant breakthrough for a nation long deemed too wealthy with oil money and too corrupt to be granted relief from debt accumulated over years of misrule.

The deal with the Paris Club of creditors, which includes Germany, France, Britain and other wealthy nations, allows Nigeria to pay off about \$30 billion in accumulated debt for about \$12 billion, an overall discount of about 60 percent, according to a statement released by the club.

"There is some pain on both sides, but it is also a good deal for both sides," said Todd Moss, a fellow at the Center For Global Development, a nonpartisan research institution in Washington that proposed elements of the deal.

Under the terms of the agreement, Nigeria will pay about \$6 billion in arrears it owes the club at face value, and then be able to buy back the remaining \$24 billion at a discount. Profits from high oil prices will be used to pay the debt, Moss said.

## Senator Wins More Than \$853,000 in Powerball

By David Stout

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

While driving to the Capitol for a vote on Monday, Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., stopped at a service station to buy gasoline. Just for fun, he bought \$20 worth of Powerball lottery tickets.

Thursday morning, he checked the newspaper and saw that he had a ticket that matched the first five winning numbers, though not the Powerball number. "Wow," he recalled thinking. "I must have won about a hundred bucks."

More, actually: Gregg banked a check for \$853,492.

"Every American believes in good fortune and good luck, and I'm no different than anyone else," he said at a news conference.

He said he did not play the lottery often, but was intrigued by the jackpot of some \$340 million.

A Powerball ticket winning the jackpot was sold in the Jacksonville, Ore., area but had not been claimed at last report. Gregg was one of 47 players who matched five numbers for a substantial consolation prize.

Gregg, who heads the Budget Committee, has \$1.5 million to \$6.2 million in stocks, real estate and other investments, according to his latest financial-disclosure form. He is one of at least 40 senators who enjoy millionaire status.

The senator said he and his wife, Kathleen, would talk about what to do with the money, once he has paid the taxes on it. Some of it may go to the Hugh Gregg Foundation, which supports New Hampshire charities and is named after the senator's late father, a former governor of the state.

# N. Korea Nuclear Weapons Talks Possible, American Envoy Reports

By James Brooke

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

North Korea is "fully committed" to return to nuclear disarmament talks in November and is showing "flexibility" on conditions for obtaining a light-water reactor, an American envoy said here Friday.

"They showed me flexibility on the light-water reactor issue," the envoy to the North, Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, said in an interview.

Energy-poor North Korea has been seeking the reactor as the price for giving up its nuclear program. It seems to want the reactor partly to save face for returning to international nuclear controls, Richardson said, adding, "In my opinion, it is an important issue, but not a deal breaker."

To make nuclear power in North Korea palatable to Washington, Richardson said, "they would be willing to have the U.S. participate in the fuel cycle at the front and back end."

He added: "What that basically

means is that the U.S. could control it, as well as the six parties." The talks also include China, Russia, South Korea and Japan.

Bush administration officials have said they want North Korea to disarm first, then talk about the possibility of civilian nuclear power. At Washington's insistence, work was halted two years ago on two nuclear power plants under construction on North Korea's east coast.

Arms control experts fear that weapon-grade fuel could be extracted from materials at civilian plants. The issue of a civilian power plant became a stumbling block in the last round of talks in Beijing last month. A day after agreeing to a joint statement on nuclear disarmament, the North blasted the agreement, demanding a light-water fuel plant in advance and casting a cloud over future talks.

North Korea gave an "unconditional commitment" to return to the talks in early November, Richardson said after four days of meetings in the capital, Pyongyang. "They are returning to talks with a commitment to de-nuclearizing, but they

want words for words, actions for actions," he said. "The most important issue is the nuclear reactor."

"It was the most positive tone I have seen" Richardson said of his trip, his fourth to Pyongyang. He said he met four times with Kim Kye Gwan, North Korea's top nuclear negotiator, and had a two-hour meeting with Kang Sok Ju, a deputy foreign minister whom Richardson described as "the top foreign policy adviser to Kim Jong Il," the North Korean leader.

In the meetings, the North Koreans also agreed to allow most foreign aid workers to stay in the country. Last month, North Korea had given a Dec. 31 deadline for foreigners working for private aid groups to leave and had ordered the World Food Program to change its aid from "humanitarian" to "development." "The North Koreans basically reversed their position on the aid issue, basically the date of expulsion is now not operational," Richardson said. The World Food Program will be allowed to keep 30 foreign aid workers, slightly fewer than their current allotment.

# Senate Panel Approves Bill to Finish TV's Transition From Analog to Digital

By Stephen Labaton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A Senate panel approved legislation on Thursday to complete the slow transition from analog to digital television by 2009, a change of enormous importance to the television, cable and wireless telephone industries.

The legislation, cleared by the Senate Commerce Committee by a vote of 19-3, has gained considerable momentum because it could raise billions of dollars for a depleted federal treasury from auctions for the spectrum licenses that would be surrendered by broadcasters.

Emergency workers have been heavily lobbying for the legislation so they can have better communications during disasters like Hurricane Katrina. And the lawmakers are being pressed by industry, most notably wireless phone companies, to accelerate the transition to auction off the spectrum licenses so that the carriers can expand phone and wireless Internet services.

Equipment makers also see the

legislation as a possible bonanza because it would prompt consumers and subscription television services to buy upgrades. It also offers the hope of encouraging greater use of wireless online services.

But the bill faces considerable political obstacles, as the various industries squabble over its terms. A significant issue is how to pay for the technology needed to prevent an estimated 70 million to 80 million television sets from being rendered obsolete once broadcasters no longer provide analog programs.

Those are the sets that do not rely on subscription services provided by cable and satellite companies. The matter is so politically sensitive that lawmakers set April 7, 2009, as the legislation's effective date. (Not coincidentally, that is one day after the widely watched Final Four NCAA basketball tournament.)

The legislation approved by the committee was sponsored by its Republican chairman, Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, and the ranking Democrat, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. The three Democratic senators who voted

against the measure were Barbara Boxer of California, John Kerry of Massachusetts, and Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia.

It would provide \$3 billion for owners of those sets to buy converter boxes that would let them receive digital signals. A similar bill, expected to be considered soon in the House, is likely to try to trim that amount, congressional aides said.

The measure moves to the Senate Budget Committee, where it could be considered as early as next week, before being introduced on the floor.

The legislation is the latest measure in a decades-long push toward digital transmission, which would make more efficient use of the communications spectrum and enable broadcasters to offer better-quality pictures as well as the prospect of interactivity.

As part of the transition, the government gave the broadcasters use of frequencies for both digital and analog transmission, and policymakers want to accelerate the process to get back the analog portion to sell in the market.



# Missing the Point

Matthew Stern

The arguments in Jessica H. Lowell's "UA Serves Useful Purpose," and Ruth Miller's "UA? No Way" appear to be disjoint. Ms. Lowell gave an excellent description of the Undergraduate Association's business, staff, and future, but did not address the key concerns brought forth in the preceding article.

## Letter

To start, Ms. Lowell gave a report on how the UA's voter turnout is indeed up this year and that this is "hardly a sign that the UA is decaying." Though it is wonderful that the UA's turnout is not falling into nothingness, it still does not address the point. The problem is not that turnout is falling over time, but that its current state is for lack of a better word, pitiful. Less than a third (29.9%) of the undergraduate body voted in the last UA elections. I don't care that is up from the year before. I care that its current level is so low that the UA Senate can hardly call itself a truly representative body. To the UA's credit, they try very hard to raise this number, and it

*Unless the UA is bribing administrators (and this is preposterous), lobbying should not cost money.*

seems they are making some progress, but the point is still valid that the UA has problems with voter turnout.

Ms. Lowell then goes through a laundry list of things that receive money from the UA budget. Most of these involve food of some kind, including a barrage of study break-related events. The argument here can be summed into micro verses macro culture. I can think of maybe one or two '08 study breaks I've been to in the last two years, but I go to my floor's study break every other week. It's not that the UA isn't attempting to improve campus life, but that the best way to improve campus life is to break it up into smaller organizations, like LSC, MITOC, etc., that connect with people in a localized, more targeted manner, and, as an overall effect, improve campus life. This means giving the money to Finboard.

Students do need to realize how hard it is for fellow undergraduates to lobby with paid and trained administrators on behalf of student rights. The MIT administration doesn't have to listen to us, so a good relationship between elected students and the administration is critical. "Helping to develop a housing system ... making confidential medical transport available ... reducing roof fines" — all of these are important achievements, and the UA should be thanked for supporting the causes of student rights.

However, unless the UA is bribing administrators (and this is preposterous), lobbying should not cost any money. Ok, maybe if food is at the meeting, but that's about it. It is important that we have elected people who can claim (at least partially) to represent the student body and converse with MIT, but it is not required that they be so well-funded.

Lastly, I for one was a little offended by one of Ms. Lowell's statements about the UA retreat: "Student groups are not forbidden from spending funding on retreats. They are forbidden from spending Finboard funding on retreats. ... The UA is not funded by Finboard." No, the UA is not funded by Finboard. Finboard is funded by the UA, and the UA is funded by *my tuition*.

There is a reason that Finboard doesn't allow the money to be spent on retreats, and a good one at that. Retreats are fun enterprises that only benefit a small percent of the student body and therefore should not be paid for by public student funds. Other student groups fund their retreats by their own means. Why can't the UA be like every other group on campus and do the same? Using UA funds to pay for a UA retreat is equivalent to another group using Finboard funds to pay for its retreat. I don't care if it's not an official rule; it should be.

So where does this leave us? The UA is an organization dedicated to lobbying for students' rights and providing student services on a campus-wide macro scale. It uses, to some an egregious amount of money and to others a reasonable amount. Regardless of opinions, this amount is about 20k. It uses the students' tuition money to fund for a retreat that benefits its own members. It is our primary method for speaking directly with the administration. It is made up of people who, even if it pads their resume, care about student issues. I for one do not have a solution to its problems, but at some point they need to be recognized and addressed.

# Bush's Energy Catch-22

Matthew Silver

Emerging from a military bunker in Colorado from which he monitored an incoming storm, President Bush is preaching conservation. Not for the environment — for gasoline. The irony of this scene merits attention. It highlights a pivotal failing of the current Bush administration that began nearly from his inauguration: a complete lack of coherent, long-term vision.

The specific threat of WMDs notwithstanding, two years ago, the Bush administration took us to war in Iraq for strategic, not tactical, reasons. It is relatively clear that the architects of that war saw it as strategically advantageous along multiple dimensions (for those who would live through it): We topple a dictator, re-open massive oil fields to counter Saudi leverage in OPEC, insert a friendly government between Iran and Syria that will help stymie the then-growing network of nuclear proliferation, and liberate a people oppressed for years.

The superficial problem was that the entire plan hinged on wishful thinking: The Iraqis would hail us liberators and freedom would ensue. More fundamentally, however, the short-term solution was at odds with the real long-term problem: our dependence on foreign oil.

This dependence is, of course, partially responsible for our pressing global environmental problems. The Bush administration's record in this regard is well known. The Kyoto Treaty,

we are told, was rejected on economic grounds. The Bush administration has favored opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for exploration. However, even if the region was a veritable sea of oil, it would do little to alleviate our energy problems. Again, short-term benefits to the economy and oil-companies, respectively, are traded for long-term problems.

Now, many of these issues have come full circle. Rising ocean temperatures, likely caused by atmospheric carbon dioxide released from coal and oil, have unleashed powerful storms and disrupted our oil supplies. Bush belatedly steps into military mode and preaches restraint in oil consumption. In other words, the Bush administration goes to war against a storm brought about in part by the same set of policies that led us to war in Iraq, the latter having little to do with restraining oil consumption — so much for coherence.

President Bush cannot really be blamed for the hurricane, and the need to conserve oil was temporary. But the irony of the scene underscores two critical points about our current state of affairs and Bush administration policies. First, the greatest problems facing the U.S. today, including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, economic stability and growth, global environmental change, and international health concerns, are intimately interconnected, and therefore demand systemic responses. As recent scholarship at MIT emphasizes, systemic problems demand responses sensitive

to dynamic interdependencies. This means understanding how our actions in one area may affect another.

Second, many of Bush's policies provide short-term and ad-hoc solutions that are ignorant of, or even contrary to, such long-term dynamics. The list extends beyond our currently contradictory energy/environmental policies. The Department of Defense, for example, has increased its "information war" to sway anti-American sentiment abroad, meanwhile the Bush administration has closed U.S.-sponsored libraries in the Middle East that encourage real education and freedom of thought. The Bush administration has based its foreign policy on the noble goal of increasing political freedom, yet it undercuts its legitimacy by denying basic freedoms to prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

The cynic will argue that many of these policies are the result of necessity, whether political, military, or otherwise, and that the president is therefore not responsible for their lack of coherence. To the contrary, given the strength of the U.S. in the world today, it is our actions more than others that dictate the terms of international discourse. And it is the mark of great leadership, or simply competent leadership, to shape, rather be shaped by, events.

The unfortunate landfall of two hurricanes last month briefly thrust the contradictory nature of our energy and environmental policies into the spotlight. In the absence of policy changes that take the long-term interdependence of these and other issues into consideration, I suppose the Bush administration is simply praying the weather will treat us better in the future.

*Matthew Silver is a research scientist in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.*

*Many of Bush's policies provide short-term and ad-hoc solutions that are ignorant of, or even contrary to, such long-term dynamics.*

# How to Avoid Getting RIAAed

Cassandra R. Hunt

There is a dangerous group among us that finds our very way of life an affront to its sensibilities. This organization finds our most cherished pastime to be flagrantly liberal and a contradiction to its' members' beliefs concerning ethical behavior, and in their eyes, there is no middle ground. Because we are many and strong, they cannot attack us directly. They strike terror into our hearts by picking victims at random and using our own resources to thwart us.

I'm speaking, of course, of the RIAA. Since the advent of 8-tracks and video cassettes, it has been the prerogative of America's youth to capture media they enjoy. The need to possess something greater than one's self, to somehow control an idea — an idea in the form of songs and movies and television shows — to use it as an expression of the self, realizes two basic human needs: the need to be understood and the need for self improvement.

If we understand this, other mind-boggling behaviors of our peers becomes clear. For example, what other motivation could inspire so many teens to post lists of their mp3's online? Why does every blog have that silly feature "What I'm listening to/watching now?" From these two motivations springs the

personal conundrum of anyone who considers illegally downloading media: how does the way I acquire this art impact what it means to own it? Or more generally, to steal or not to steal?

The RIAA says the implications of music theft are clear. The artist is robbed of the money that his art has earned him. In an economic system whose principle tenet is that those who produce something valued to society should receive the amount of money their product is worth, this is clearly unethical. For those who agree, this means that their possession of illegally downloaded music adds another dimension to what each song says about them — it says, "I'm willing to undermine the very foundation of the society that I rely on."

But most of us don't feel our pirating is so severe. After all, the very technology that allows us to steal music is the same technology responsible for the balloon in the recording industry. The cost of producing each sound byte has dropped, yet prices have not reflected this. Today, CDs are sold for more than LPs ever were (adjusting for inflation), yet they are cheaper to produce.

This profit margin can't change in a system where we must purchase 90 percent of

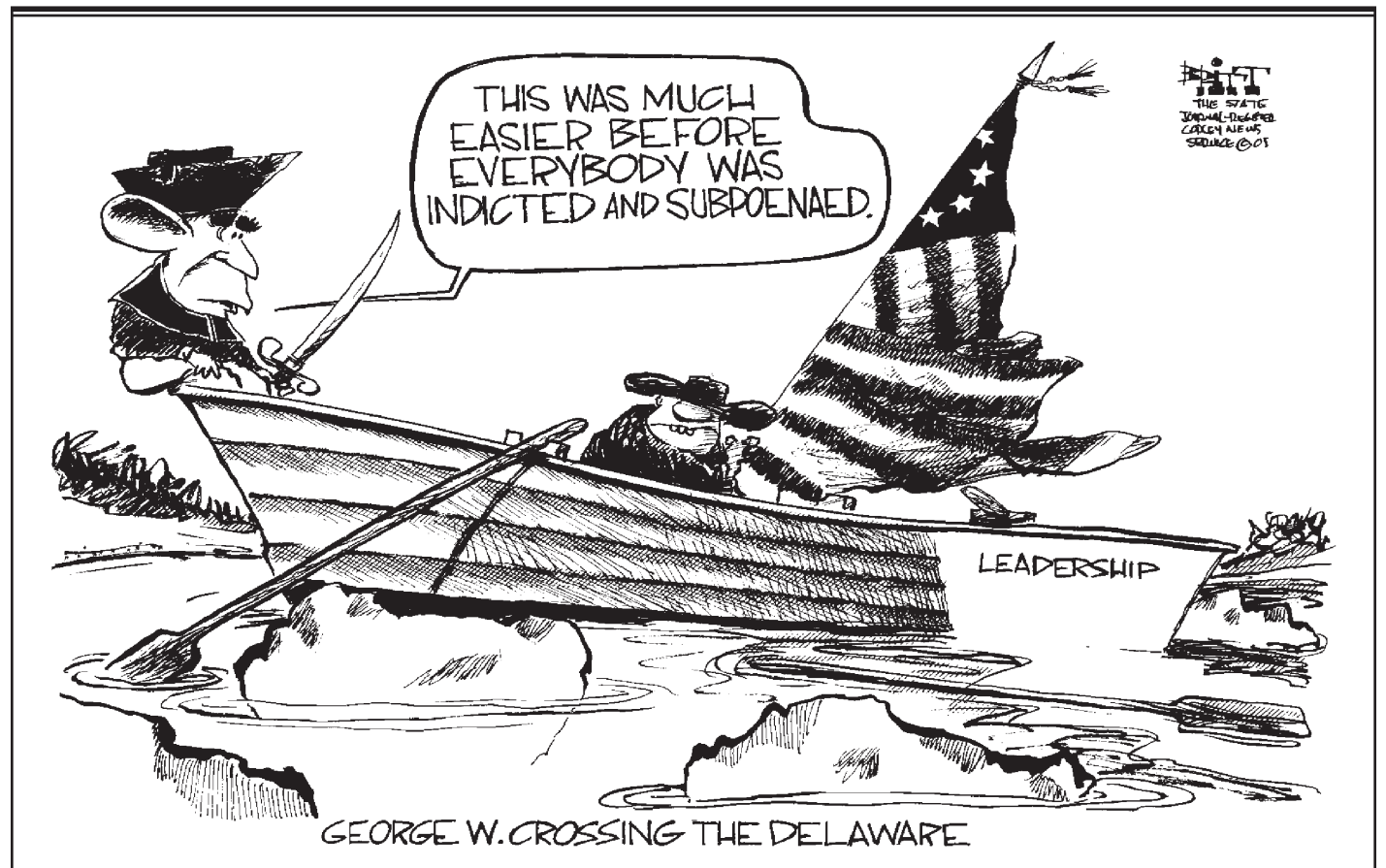
our music from the RIAA. Without competitors, we're forced to get our music at the prices it sets. And when the recording industry behaves like a trust, the question of ethics gets thrown back to the accuser. People have been recording music onto tapes for decades, but using a technology that allows higher profits comes with the cost of having a new scale of competition — free digital music sharing.

*What alternative is there that doesn't rely on our own integrity to recognize a fair trade?*

So how can we reach a fair equilibrium that doesn't leave the recording industry giving its music away to compete? The RIAA's answer is guerrilla warfare, forcing us to look over our shoulders at every turn on the information superhighway. What alternative is there that doesn't rely on our own integrity to recognize a fair trade?

The RIAA has no faith in us, and I doubt we do either. But if we are to overcome our foe, we must relearn the ethics we hold dear. We must understand why it is we respect art and what it means to pay proper tribute to an artist. Then we can take pride in ourselves and our actions and show our enemy what it means to do right. Maybe we'll even be understood.

*Cassandra R. Hunt is a member of the Class of 2008.*



## ARTS

## CONCERT REVIEW

*Large Audience Attends Family Weekend Concert**'Lincoln Portrait' Featuring President Hockfield and Festival Jazz Ensemble Highlight the Evening*

OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Kendall Eddy on bass (center) anchors the MIT Wind Ensemble performance for the annual Family Weekend Concert, held last Friday, Oct. 14.

By Jacqueline O'Connor  
ARTS EDITOR

MIT Annual Family Weekend Concert  
MIT Wind Ensemble and  
Festival Jazz Ensemble  
Frederick Harris Jr., music director  
Denneth Amis, assistant conductor  
President Susan Hockfield, narrator  
Dr. Thomas N. Byrne, narrator  
Oct. 14, 2005, 8 p.m.  
Kresge Auditorium, MIT

Despite the monsoon conditions outside, Kresge Auditorium was once again filled with adoring parents and enthusiastic fans for the Annual Family Weekend Concert, featuring the MIT Wind Ensemble and Festival Jazz Ensemble. The concert was split by an intermission, with each group playing five selections. This concert was an extra-special event due to a guest appearance by President Susan Hockfield and her husband Dr. Thomas N. Byrne, visiting clinical professor of neurology at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. President Hockfield summed up the spirit of the night before the performance of Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait," when she said, "They play like angels, and they do differential equations too."

## A CAPPELLA REVIEW

*GBIS Impresses Parents Annually**Singing Groups Cover Flaws With Enthusiasm*

By Bill Andrews  
STAFF WRITER

Greater Boston Invitational Songfest  
Muses, Resonance, Cross Products, Chorallaries, Logarhythms, MIT/Wellesley Toons  
Saturday, Oct. 15 at 8 p.m.  
Kresge Auditorium

At 8:08 p.m. on Oct. 15, the lights went down on the Kresge main stage, and the audience, standing room only, began to quiet down. I'd never seen Kresge so full of people, but it was Family Weekend, and the famous GBIS concert, so I wasn't surprised. GBIS (pronounced "gibbous" in my head) stands for Greater Boston Inva-

"Lincoln Portrait" was definitely the high point of the wind ensemble performance. The first four selections on the Wind Ensemble program were played musically, though at times were out of tune. The piece "Down a Country Lane," by Vincent Persichetti, was especially interesting as it came in two parts: first a version for solo piano, played by Daniel Steele '06, and then a version for full ensemble. Steele's performance was lovely and captured the simplicity of the folk-like ballad. The Wind Ensemble was able to capture the same phrasings and character that Steele's performance offered and made for a pleasant listening experience.

After a shaky "Fanfare and Fugue," a piece written by MIT Professor Peter Child for the inauguration of President Susan Hockfield, the ensemble was joined by President Hockfield and Dr. Byrne for a performance of Copland's "Lincoln Portrait."

This work, in true Copland style, is an American piece to the core. The melodies echo those of traditional American folk music and rhythms. After the stately march-line section that opens the piece, a more lyrical tune comes in as the narrator, first Hockfield, tells of Lincoln's life and presidency. The inspirational music is complemented by a variety of quotes from Lincoln's speeches to Congress, at the battlefield at Get-

tysburg, and at other important moments in American history. "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history." The words came across powerfully, in no small part due to the excellent narrations by Hockfield and Byrne.

After some technical difficulties at the beginning of the second half, the Festival Jazz Ensemble picked up the pace of the concert and delivered a wonderful performance with works from Thelonious Monk, Bob Mintzer, Duke Ellington, and Charlie Parker, among many other legends. It is obvious that Director Fred Harris is not only proud of this ensemble but also loves being a part of it, as witnessed not only by his enthusiasm on stage but by the caliber of the performance. The ensemble is made up of approximately 16 students whose enthusiasm and sheer talent make every performance of the Festival Jazz Ensemble a great one.

The highlight of the second half was a piece called "Tribute," written by Bob Mintzer in 1984 in honor of the legendary Count Basie, who died that year. Count Basie and his jazz orchestra helped to define an era of great modern-day jazz. The Festival Jazz Ensemble captured the essence of a large jazz orchestra, and the soloists added flair and virtuosity to the performance. Towards the end of the piece, the band did a tribute of their own to the many struggling

jazz musicians in New Orleans trying to get a foothold after Hurricane Katrina.

One other piece on their program must be mentioned: Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington's "Isfahan," a movement from "The Far East Suite," written after a visit to the region in 1963. Ellington said of Isfahan that it was "a city where everything is poetry." The piece really reflects this mood, especially in the silky solo saxophone part played by Reid Van Lehn '09. Besides the fantastic group performance, there were many memorable solos. Chris Kottke G on trumpet provided many solos throughout the night and proved himself to be an amazing jazz musician. His playing was clear and his ad libs were fun and interesting. Finally, bassist Jason Atkins stole the show in his opening of "Moose the Mooche," a Charlie Parker tune. He started the piece with a slower, jazzy baseline, and before you knew it broke out the funk and led the band into a wonderful rendition of this 1920s throwback.

Harris and his supporting conductors and staff did an excellent job in preparing for this concert. For such a large group, the Wind Ensemble played extremely musically, and the Festival Jazz Ensemble was as excellent as always. Catch them both at their winter performances at the end of term.

tional Songfest, although it was really only MIT a capella groups that performed. They were all there: Resonance, the Cross Products, the Muses, the Chorallaries, the MIT/Wellesley Toons, and the Logarhythms. I had heard of this annual event for years, but this year was finally able to attend and was surprised on many levels. To be brief: the show was great, and the audience lapped it up.

Resonance, "the newest and freshest" group, started the night off well, with the traditional a capella choreography of head moving and arm pointing. Their vocal performances were, for the most part, impressive and just like the versions I've heard before. Each group performed three songs, and I recognized each

of Resonance's from the radio. I happen to like that, and so I cheered with everyone else when they were done.

The Cross Products, "MIT's co-ed Christian" group, were quite a contrast from Resonance, seeming less exuberant and chipper. They made up for it with sheer joy — you could tell everyone on that stage really loved what he or she was doing. Their balance seemed off, drowning out the featured singer every time, and one particular singer had the unfortunate trait of singing prolonged notes flat. This isn't to say they were terrible, as they were still fun to listen to, in particular the last song. They obviously have a lot of talent.

The Muses, "MIT's premiere all-female"

group, continued the trend toward more formal, even classical performances. Wearing all-black evening gowns and doing hardly any traditional head moving, the ladies began with an impressive and soulful song. The harmonies were tight and the tempo was right, and I was transfixed. The next two songs, unfortunately, weren't nearly as well performed, leaving me shocked and surprised. It was still a good performance, but (like so many of us probably heard in high school) I was disappointed because I knew they could do better.

As soon as the Chorallaries, "the Institute's oldest co-ed" group, came on stage, I knew

# Toons, Logarhythms Mix Music and Humor at GBIS

GBIS, from Page 6

things were different. This was a group worthy of its boastful bio (almost 166 words) in the program, and they didn't disappoint. They had no problems with blending, tempo, or boring songs, as some of the previous groups had. I was most impressed with their second song, "Somewhere Only We Know," for both its technical perfection and soulfulness.

Up next were the MIT/Wellesley Toons, "MIT's and Wellesley's only co-ed" group, and they kept the ball rolling. Their first song showcased their musical ability, and the second their more fun side as they acted out a skit where an MIT nerd falls in love with a girl (not necessarily a Wellesley girl) and gives her a teddy bear and a big cartoon heart. It was cute, and the ladies seated near me each went "Awww." Their last song was the tear-jerker "Hallelujah," making you cry in such hits as "Shrek" and "The West Wing." Even though the showcased singer had the scary habit of almost becoming sharp, it was an amazing performance; after all, they were able to keep a song that doesn't change

its form or structure at all exciting for four or five verses.

Closing the night were the Logarhythms, "one of the nation's oldest and strongest" groups, if they do say so themselves; but they have a right to, as they were clearly the audience favorite. Running on stage in a variety of goofy costumes (baseball player, Robin Hood, and even a horseback policeman), they made it clear they took music seriously. Their first song, "I Melt With You," not only featured actual choreography, but flawless vocals and blending. Their other songs were similarly impressive, mixing humor and style with near-perfect singing. In fact, I wish I could say something bad about the Logarhythms since my girlfriend has been in love with them for years, but I can't.

It all seemed to go by quickly, and before we knew it the show was over. Everyone clearly had a good time, and even though some of the performances were better than others, it was clear that MIT has a formidable talent pool. That is, of course, nothing the parents and students in the audience didn't already know.



Alexander S. del Nido '06 of the MIT Chorallaries sings during the Greater Boston Invitational Songfest, held last Saturday, Oct. 15 in Kresge Auditorium. The annual event brings all of the a cappella groups on campus together to perform for Family Weekend.

See photo essay, page 13.

## ART REVIEW

# When 'Everything Fell Together'

## Christian Jankowski's Films on Exhibit at List Visual Arts Center

By Nikhil Nadkarni  
STAFF WRITER

"Everything Fell Together"  
Christian Jankowski, artist  
An exhibition of video and photography  
At MIT List Visual Arts Center through Dec. 31

I've never been a huge fan of art films. The productions I've seen have often been too esoteric and too serious to enjoy. Thus, when I recently received a flyer in my mailbox inviting me to see a new video exhibition at List Visual Arts Center, I assumed it wouldn't be too interesting. A visit to List, however, proved me completely wrong. Artist Christian Jankowski's work is a captivating collection of videos and photography, varying from hilariously irreverent portrayals of art critics to brutal, surreal shorts, all displaying a keen sense of cleverness and creativity.

The exhibition is at List (first floor of the Media Lab building) through Dec. 31. Entitled "Everything Fell Together," it consists of twelve works in separate galleries. Some rooms house projected videos, which range from a minute long to two hours, while others feature both video and still photography. Jankowski, who is German-

born and now living in New York, covers a wide variety of themes in his work. Some exhibits provoke questions about human nature while others capture him having absurd fun. In conjunction with the exhibit, Jankowski gave an entertaining Artist's Talk on Oct. 15.

A number of his exhibited films capture the surreal. For example, in "16mm Mystery" (2004), we see a city that is silent and sterile.

Jankowski, playing himself, then walks up to the roof of one of the buildings and sets up a 16 mm film projector. When he starts playing a film, we perceive it as the arrival of life and movement into an otherwise deserted city. However, the film appears to have supernatural powers, as a skyscraper in the background crumbles inexplicably 10 seconds after the filmstrip is begun.

Other exhibits of his are hilarious, especially those that make fun of haughty art criticism. A notable example is "Talk Athens" (2003), a video of him appearing on a Greek talk show with a few art critics and collectors. From the start of the show, Jankowski remains completely silent; this leads the guests to philosophically discuss what his silence represents. Their discussion grows deeper and deeper while Jankowski remains silent and walks around the room, striking peculiar poses. The video, showing us how art academics will talk a great deal about nothing, captures Jankowski having fun with an absurd idea.

"Talk Athens" is also a good example of how Jankowski creatively toys with the method of production. Indeed, throughout the gallery and at the Artist's

Talk, I enjoyed his unique ways of making films; his creativity never ceased to amaze me. For example, for a film entitled "This I Played Tomorrow" (2003), he interviewed aspiring actors and actresses in an Italian studio district. He then took actual lines from their interviews and incorporated them into an hour-long drama. The interviews and the drama are played simultaneously beside each other, creating a

## A CAPPELLA REVIEW

# Penn Masala Brings Indian A Cappella to MIT

## Traditional Indian Styles Surpass Western Interpretations

By Mirat Shah  
STAFF WRITER

Penn Masala  
Kresge Auditorium  
Sunday, Oct. 16, 2005

The Penn Masala a cappella concert held last Sunday in Kresge Auditorium was running on Indian time. That is to say, it was running late. Penn Masala is an Indian all-male a cappella group hailing from the University of Pennsylvania. They were founded in 1996 and since then have achieved a top 10 music video in India, songs on the "American Desi" soundtrack, and an international fan base. They performed at MIT in support of Asha for Education, a non-profit organization that works to improve basic education in India.

The hype from their minor celebrity status and the added suspense of a delayed beginning created extremely high expectations that Penn Masala unfortunately did not fully live up to. The group combines Hindi songs with English rock, rap, and R&B to create a unique sound. Many of the members view themselves as ABCDs (American-born confused Desis) and see their synthesis of musical styles as a manifestation of this.

The Indian portions of their arrangements were quite impressive and diverse. Some members of the group are classically trained Indian musicians and therefore their command of intonation, ornamentation, and complex rhythms in the traditional Indian style is amazing. This was exhibited in the song "Wedding Qawwali." A qawwali is a traditional style that combines Muslim and Hindi influences to create a song of love and devotion. Some of the faster lines of this song contain so many syllables and are so difficult to sing that even a native speaker could not do it. Yet the Penn Masala soloist performed in an easy, beautiful sing song. The slower backdrop of the song was equally impressive with well-placed wavering and ornamentation creating a perfect effect of earnestness and yearning.

Penn Masala was more than competent at other Indian styles as well. Their opener featured a portion of the Hindi pop song "Tu Cheez Badi Hai Mast." The soloist delivered, singing with the bright, sweet sound quality that often char-

acterizes Bollywood music. Other highlights included Penn Masala's slow, smooth, resonant renditions of the popular classics "Maa Tujhe Salam," and "Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam." The bhanga number "Saade Dil," a portion of their closer, was exciting as well, with the driving inherent danceability of the song perfectly conveyed.

However, the English portions of Penn Masala's arrangements were lackluster. The group seems to spend most their time mastering the Indian styles and then injecting Western music into their arrangements for fun. As a result, whenever they switched into an English song, they did not match the deliberate pronunciation or range of the original. This was glaringly pointed out in the "No Diggity" part of their opener and in their rendition of U2's "One."

An exception to this rule was Penn Masala's interpretation of Sting's "Desert Rose." First of all, this song was impressive because it is in a minor key that is notoriously difficult for an a cappella group to sing. In addition, they interpreted the song instead of trying to emulate the original. The haunting Indian backbeats and harmonies are exquisite, and in the melody, the ornamentation and trilling that worked so well for Indian songs work here as well to recreate the mystery and exoticism of the desert.

If Penn Masala only used Western styles sparingly, it would be acceptable that they chose not to master them. However, as the night progressed, songs in English started to dominate. Their final set of three only contained one Hindi song. The rest of the set was filled with a gimmicky beatboxing routine, a "battle rap" with trite jokes about Indians living in America, and most disappointing of all a closer dominated by the repetitive Kevin Little song "Turn Me On." The first two sets, though also populated with English songs, demonstrated Penn Masala's exceptional ability to sing in Indian styles and left the audience craving more. Instead, we were sent home with Kevin Little ringing in our ears. The audience maybe received a sense of what the parents of these self-dubbed ABCDs feel. We wished that even as Penn Masala became more assimilated in American culture and music, they could hold onto and appreciate their Indian cultural and musical roots a little bit more.

## CLASSICAL REVIEW

# Don't Forget About The Boston Philharmonic

## Kashkashian Shines In Harbison's Viola Concerto

By Kelley Rivoire  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Boston Philharmonic Orchestra  
Benjamin Zander, conductor  
Kim Kashkashian, viola  
Jordan Hall, Boston  
Saturday, Oct. 16, 2005

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is the orchestra around here — and around the world. But the city offers a range of ensembles that deserve their own spotlight outside the BSO's shadow. Last Saturday night, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra grabbed this spotlight, with an energetic performance of Brahms' "Tragic Overture," MIT Institute Professor John Harbison's "Viola Concerto," and Robert Schumann's "Rhenish Symphony."

The Boston Philharmonic, a semi-professional orchestra, includes students, young professionals, and even some with careers unrelated to music. Led since their creation 26 years ago by Conductor Benjamin Zander of the New England Conservatory of Music, the group brings the enthusiasm of an ensemble where members play music for joy, rather than by necessity.

Though not a fully professional orches-

## CLASSICAL REVIEW

# Romantic Composers Smile on BSO

## Accessible Repertoire Celebrates Beauty of Classical Music

By Tony Hwang

STAFF WRITER

*Boston Symphony Orchestra*  
*Jeus Georg Bachmann, conductor*  
*Andreas Haefliger, piano*  
*Symphony Hall, Boston*  
*Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005*

What better way to spend a cold and dreary night than relaxing indoors, listening to heartwarming music? Many seemed to agree, as Symphony Hall was packed for Saturday's concert. The evening's program consisted of purely Romantic repertoire: nothing contemporary to challenge the audience's musical taste, but rather a fine display of lyricism that caused listeners to sigh with contentment.

Assistant Conductor Bachmann strode upon the stage with a smile, opening the program with Weber's Overture to "Oberon." The piece begins with a seamless interweaving of melodies between violins and a French horn soloist. Perfectly capturing a mood of quiet expressiveness, the musicians were able to grip the attention of the audience from the start.

As the music progressed, string sections were showcased, each group maintaining the emotional intensity. However, the calm was shattered as Bachmann led the BSO into a section of contrasting excitement. Throughout the Overture, there were instances when the tone would flip between peaceful and exhilarating.

Bachmann held the reins skillfully, waving

fluidly or strictly denoting tempos depending on the situation at hand. His deep understanding of the music was apparent, and as further evidence of his dedication, he conducted the entire program from memory. The orchestra held its own as well, on the same wavelength as its conductor, while still allowing its players to show their personal touches. The rousing conclusion of the piece was greeted with great applause, and after it died down the stage was reset for the piano concerto.

With everything back in order, Andreas Haefliger emerged to tackle Schumann's "Piano Concerto in A minor." Haefliger is an experienced pianist who comes from a musical family and has performed with orchestras worldwide. He has received praise especially for his graceful interpretations of Classical and Romantic music, and thus his choice of Schumann came as no surprise. Launching into the first movement with flamboyant body language, Haefliger made it clear to the audience that he was planning to put on a great show. He continued throughout with great technical precision and clean playing.

While for the most part his phrasing was logical, at times it became almost predictable and slightly repetitive. The orchestra overpowered the soloist at times, most likely one of the balance issues for which the piece is infamous, but the effect may simply have been a product of the acoustics of the hall. All shortcomings aside, Haefliger still successfully created an atmosphere of eloquence

coupled with virtuosity, and the audience's standing ovation was evidence that his style was well-received.

Mendelssohn's "Symphony No. 3 in A minor" was a fitting conclusion to this Romantic concert, as Mendelssohn was one of the era's most talented and unique composers. One interesting aspect of this particular symphony is that its four movements are to be played contiguously without pause; although each movement has a singular quality, it also is directly related in melodic shape to the others. Structure aside, the symphony is vintage Mendelssohn, full of exquisite melody lines and rich chordal harmonies. While the previous two pieces did not allow the winds and brass to shine much other than through solos, this symphony gave them full release as a section, and the result was a glorious sound that permeated the concert hall to the last row.

The BSO was quite content to play a concert devoid of modern repertoire. The members of the orchestra were not given an easy task (especially the strings, who had many challenging and exposed passages), but they seized the music with gusto. While many contemporary composers are pushing the limits of musical acceptability, it is satisfying (and necessary) for us to return to the foundations of orchestral music and celebrate their timeless quality. From the smiles and complimentary remarks heard through the post-concert murmur, it seemed like those in attendance couldn't agree more.

## DANCE REVIEW

# Boston Ballet Puts on Jazzy 'Cinderella'

## Stepsisters Nearly Steal Show From a Graceful Cinderella

By Natania Antler

*Cinderella*  
*Boston Ballet*  
*Music by Sergei Prokofiev*  
*Choreographed by James Kudelka*  
*Set and Costume Design by David Boechler*  
*The Wang Theatre, Oct. 13-23*

James Kudelka's "Cinderella" performed by the Boston Ballet is certainly darker than the Disney film, but it's still a fun show for all. Although this exquisite, modern rendering of the classic ballet "Cinderella" is aimed at a more adult audience, it's still great for kids. The live orchestra did justice to the classic music by Prokofiev and added great depth to the performance. Costumes and sets designed by David Boechler are brilliantly reminiscent of the roaring 20s. Cinderella's stepsisters' costumes are brightly colored, wacky affairs, reflecting the characters' comic portrayal. Just as the stepsisters' ball gowns are grossly out of style compared to the swank flappers adorned in black and silver, their costumes also contrast with Cinderella's simple and elegant attire.

The ballet opens with Cinderella alone in the kitchen, imagining herself as a bride. In an interesting stylistic choice, the fantastical wedding party is made up of dancers trying to look like dwarves by standing on their knees. Aside

from this rather distracting opening, the first act, carried by Cinderella (Lorna Feijóo, Oct. 13) and her two stepsisters (Sacha Wakelin, Heather Myers, Oct. 13) is excellent.

The technically difficult but inspired choreography was danced superbly by the stepsisters, who mastered their roles as dancers, actresses, and clowns. They would have stolen the show, had Cinderella not been even better. As we see Cinderella daydream and dance around with a mop, Kudelka's choreography perfectly captures the feeling of dancing alone in one's room. This and subsequent scenes are danced with grace, precision, and feeling by Feijóo.

Kudelka's choreography is at times angular enough to be reminiscent of Nijinsky, at other times it has flavors of jazz, latin, and the Charleston. While this is a classical ballet, Kudelka is not afraid to play around with the genre and classical choreography. For example, Cinderella begins the first act dancing barefoot but is later given glass slippers to wear to the ball by her fairy godmother. She's then taught to dance on pointe by garden sprites, the little assistants of her fairy godmother. As Cinderella loses one slipper at the ball, this leads to some funny and well done choreography in the third act.

While Cinderella's fairy godmother reminded me a bit of Maggie Smith in the way she carried herself, the garden sprite characters could

have been done better.

As with many of the classical ballets, "Cinderella" includes some solos by fairies, and in this case they come in when Cinderella is being dressed up for the ball. These solos didn't make a lot of sense in Kudelka's production; their choreography was less than exciting, and their costumes clashed with the rest of the production. These are supposed to be ethereal beings aiding Cinderella, but instead they were distracting, an excuse to put some classical ballet into more modern choreography. While I'm still griping, I thought that the Prince Charming was good, but not as good as he could have been. While technically excellent, Carlos Molina was not acting nearly as well as Feijóo. For a role that with toned down choreography, the acting was an important but missing piece.

Despite some flaws and slow patches, "Cinderella" was an exciting production. It was full of fun touches and characters that made the ballet a pleasure to watch. One of my favorite details included the use of a mannequin as a dance partner by one of the dressmakers in the first act. All in all the story was well served, and the excellent dancing, sets, and costumes brought the audience into a whimsical world. "Cinderella" was fine ballet, and well worth seeing. Twenty dollars for a student rush ticket is a small price to pay for this great show; go and take advantage of what Boston has to offer.

# Kashkashian Enchants With Harbison's Viola Concerto

BPO, from Page 7

tra, the BPO draws its fair share of star power — and Saturday was no exception with Kim Kashkashian, an NEC faculty member and one of only a handful of world-renowned violists, as soloist. Kashkashian's performance, which drew repeated curtain calls, was the highlight of the night, with the Brahms overture and Schumann symphony, played powerfully, anchoring the performance.

Brahms' "Tragic Overture" beautifully showcased the orchestra's rich sound, from the two opening chords to the dark melodies. Brahms wrote the "Tragic Overture" concurrently with his lighter, more playful "Academic Festival Overture" — the two are meant to serve as contrasting pieces. The crisp bow strokes of the strings, especially in dotted rhythms, perfectly captured the incredible tension in the work.

The orchestra displayed a nice range of expressions, with the flute and oboe melodies carrying an ethereal, otherworldly softness. The strings continued this almost chilling touch, though the inner strings sometimes seemed a bit uncoordinated and the brass occasionally off pitch. The return to the opening themes came with enormous energy, and the

closing rose dramatically, drawing the loud and much-deserved applause of the audience.

Only a subset of the orchestra (a handful of string players per section, along with woodwinds and brass, xylophone, timpani, piano, and harp) remained on stage for Harbison's "Viola Concerto," a piece that delights in subtleties and intricacies. Harbison chose to play the viola as his first instrument, and his writing for the viola successfully expresses the viola's unique mellow range and tone, rather than merely transposing to alto clef a concerto that would otherwise sound better on the violin or cello.

Rarely is any viola concerto played in concert, let alone by a violist of Kashkashian's ability and reputation, so her performance of Harbison's work was quite a treat. From the opening of the first movement, the rich texture and harmonies of Harbison's concerto were evident. The movement, filled with creative interactions between soloist and orchestra, captured the audience, even with a wandering, picturesque solo line in place of a memorable melody to whistle home.

The devilishly fast second movement, its repetitiveness providing a sharp contrast to the first, showed off Kashkashian's playing, and

she and the orchestra matched their complicated entrances perfectly, right up to the abrupt ending. In some places passages, though, the orchestra seemed to overpower the soloist slightly. In the third movement, Harbison scores a lyrical, almost melodic line, including a nicely-balanced section accompanied by the harp. Like the preceding movement, the third ends a bit unexpectedly.

The bright fourth movement brings a tantalizing combination of jazzy rhythm (a Harbison trademark) and chirping woodwinds, all topped by intricate, lightning-fast figurations in the solo part almost reminiscent of a hoedown. A bit distractingly though, the interwoven, repeated percussion sequences sounded almost straight out of Barber's "Medea's Dance of Vengeance." Kashkashian dazzled, bringing rousing round after round of applause (in the audience was Professor Harbison himself), finally conceding to give an encore only after elaborate gestures by Zander. Her encore was a hauntingly beautiful Armenian folk song (Kashkashian is of Armenian descent) entitled "The Crane"; the song, as she described it, is meant to express, through the crane, the feeling of when "you lose your way home, and you can't find your way." Her pure, ringing sound evoked exactly

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Gourmet

## Pizza at

# Croma's a Hit

## Tasty Dinner and

## Heavenly Dessert —

## A Must Try on Newbury

By Jillian Berry

*Croma*  
*263 Newbury Street*  
*Boston, MA*  
*(617) 247-3200*  
*www.cromaboston.com*

Croma is a gourmet pizza restaurant located at 269 Newbury St. in Boston (between Fairfield and Gloucester Sts.). Although Croma is not a chain, there is one other branch (the original) in Manchester, England. The décor of the restaurant is a pleasing mix of old and new with exposed brick walls and sleek lines. There is a full bar on the main level, and tables on two levels as well as outdoors. As a result, even on a Friday night, our group of five was seated in less than 15 minutes without a reservation. However, the large number of tables means there is a lot of noise, so this is probably not a great restaurant for an intimate date, but it is perfect for a group.

The menu for Croma is a mix between California Pizza Kitchen and an Italian restaurant. To start, our group ordered the Croma bruschetta (\$6.25) and garlic bread with mozzarella (\$4). The bruschetta came with mozzarella and chopped tomatoes in a balsamic vinaigrette served over hot bread along with a side of olive tapenade. The tomatoes were sweet and perfectly complemented the tanginess of the vinaigrette. The garlic bread was hot from the oven and a nice starter.

For the main course, we ordered three of Croma's specialty thin crust pizzas: Cajun, BBQ Chicken, and Margherita (\$8.95–\$12.95). The pizzas are served in an individual size, but with the appetizers five of us easily split the three pies. The Cajun pizza is topped with hot peppers, shrimp, and Cajun spices. The pizza was spicy, and I thought this taste was a little too overpowering, though my friend loved it. Our second pizza, the BBQ chicken, was also topped with roast green peppers, tomatoes, caramelized onions, and a chipotle ranch dressing. The chicken was moist and tasty, the onions were cooked perfectly, and the ranch dressing cooled down some of the spice without being too strong. Our Margherita pizza was a much more traditional cheese and great for anyone who is not adventurous with food or just wants a simple dish.

Our final course was a chocolate cobbler a la mode (\$7). The cobbler was a mix of crunchy and gooey chocolate which tasted like warm brownie batter. The dish was then topped with a refreshingly cool vanilla ice cream. Words cannot describe the perfection of this heavenly rich treat. Overall, the meal and atmosphere made for a great night out.

that as she played yearning lament, her eyes closed throughout.

The orchestra concluded with Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony, written when the composer first moved to Germany's Rhine region, hopeful in his new life. Again, the orchestra brought out all its guns, with great horn solos from beginning to end, though I missed the subtleties the smaller orchestra had achieved in the Harbison, especially in the pastoral second movement of the symphony.

The orchestra did manage to play more gently in the middle movements, but seemed to lose momentum simultaneously. Nevertheless, they roared back for the symphony's conclusion, again showing off their rich sound.

From start to end, the performance was enjoyable, with the rare Harbison Viola Concerto the gem of the night. For those who've never heard a viola soloist before, Kashkashian will give a recital on Nov. 8 with pianist Robert Levin.

The Boston Philharmonic adds an important dynamic to the Boston Symphony culture — one perk is that the orchestra performs in the more intimate Jordan Hall. Their next performance in November should be well worth attending.

## FILM REVIEW ★★★

*'Stay' for the Experience, Not the Story**Forster Delivers Artsy Thrill Ride With Postmodern Abandon*By Rosa Cao  
STAFF WRITER*Stay*  
Directed by Mark Forster  
Written by David Benioff  
Starring Ewan McGregor, Ran Gosling,  
Naomi Watts  
Rated R  
Opens Today

First the scene: the Brooklyn Bridge arching overhead, a swirling, crackling aurora of fate. Then the thrills: swooping vertiginous shots from out-of-body angles, framed in fearful urban symmetries. High frequency patterns hum with urgency, from the watching windows of the city's high-rises in their ubiquitous thousands, to the cramped handwriting covering the walls of Henry's apartment: "Forgive me".

Who is Henry? It soon becomes clear that identities are as fluid as the blood dripping from almost everyone in one scene or another. The dead wander in and wander out again; he's my father, no I'm your son, the blind can see, Henry is the holy madman, and none of it matters.

But in the beginning, when the movie is still pretending that it has a story to tell that will make sense, Henry Letham (Ryan Gosling) is the suicidal artist college student, and Sam Foster (Ewan McGregor) is his shrink. For a movie that starts in therapy, "Stay" spends remarkably little time on dialogue; the best lines in the script come from Hamlet: "For there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so," delivered beautifully by the memorable Athena (Elizabeth Reaser), who radiates dignity, normality, and a refreshing sanity. Aside from her, the characterizations are as sparse as the dialogue; obsession and urgency overwhelm any depth of personality.

A number of scenes were hilarious, although it's not obvious that this was intentional. In one, Henry develops a sudden bullet wound to the head (no shots fired) and starts bleeding profusely while confused passersby gawk. Traffic (and time) stops. Henry just looks resigned. The humor of the absurd is everywhere, perhaps an inevitable side effect when a "thriller" deals in



20TH CENTURY FOX

**A sudden hailstorm is only one of many mind-bending occurrences experienced by Sam (Ewan McGregor) and Lila (Naomi Watts), in "Stay."**

melodramatic themes while throwing narrative conventions so enthusiastically overboard.

When you've seen everything there is to see, when you've arranged and rearranged all the possible combinations in "Stay," the pieces still don't fit; you realize they weren't meant to fit, but rather to appeal to some aesthetic ideal. Oh, there's an explanation all right that I won't give away here, (some might call it a gimmick), but it's clear that making sense is not the point of the show.

"Stay" is not like "Memento," where one person's brain damage still slices the world into neat enough strips that when you arrange them

right, a clear narrative unfolds. No, the brand of mental illness experienced here is contagious, leaping from Henry to everyone around him, and straight out to you. Reality dissolves into art; it doesn't take too many perturbations to warp the sharp lines of our world into an unrecognizable whirl.

Unlike those in other recent movies ("Fight Club," "A Beautiful Mind"), this portrayal of madness is no portrayal at all, but simply visual beauty spinning out of control.

Forster takes 98 minutes of sensation and fills them with tantalizing symbols and disturbing repetitions: gloomy enclosed stairs running

into shiny threatening ones, an engagement ring flashing in the dark, a little boy with a silver balloon, the phrase "your troubles will cease and fortune will smile upon you" — but they are symbols adrift, ripped free from their moorings, from every referent and antecedent, as are we.

In the end, "Stay" is a movie made of disorientation, about the mind unsheathed and unprotected, highlighting the fragility of sanity and interpretation. The movie rejects interpretation; why bother with thinking when your brain is just the viscera of your skull, and the ride is more than enough?

## FILM REVIEW ★1/2

*Knee Deep in the Dead**Space Marines Doomed in Lifeless Film Adaptation*

By Andrew Guerra

*Doom*  
Directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak  
Written by Dave Callahan and Wesley Strick  
Starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson,  
Karl Urban, Rosamund Pike  
Rated R  
Opens Today

Here's a scene early in "Doom," where Reaper (Karl Urban) explains to Sarge (The Rock) that he wants to go on the Mars mission to face his demons. Those in the audience new to the "Doom" universe

might see this as another example of the film's cliché dialogue. Those who know the premise of the "Doom" computer games, the popular first-person shooters, know that the marine literally does face Hell's demons on Mars. While this pun isn't particularly clever or funny, it is fun for fans of the games to catch such references throughout the film, and it is emblematic of how "Doom" was made primarily for these fans, leaving everyone else to suffer through what is essentially a mindless action flick.

The film opens with a group of eight marines sent to investigate a disturbance at Olduvai Research Facility on Mars, site of experi-

mental biological research, and coincidentally, an ancient civilization's abandoned settlement. Soon after the marines arrive on Mars, trouble begins and, of course, the body count begins to climb. The investigation reveals a cringe-inducing back-story involving the aforementioned ancient civilization, a 24th chromosome pair (humans have 23), and the unmapped portion of the human genome.

This contrasts with the plot of the computer games, which involves researchers actually opening a portal to Hell. As the movie progresses, several subplots are introduced, including one involving Reaper's tragic childhood and estranged sister, a debate over the decision to call for reinforcements, and a hinted-at love story, but all of these subplots are either ignored or casually cast aside as characters begin to die. One can almost see the writer's furrowed brow as he tries to decide whether to keep the subplot involving a call for reinforcements. Better to keep it in, he figures, it might be useful if a deus ex machina ending is required in a future rewrite.

Of course, even when a character is killed, the loss isn't deeply felt, as all characters conform to stock stereotypes. Male scientists are all small, nerdy, and emasculated. Female scientists are beautiful and must be protected. Each marine is only distinguishable beyond a common testosterone-fueled, gun-toting hyper-masculinity by one personality trait — there is the religious one, the

inexperienced one, the creepy one, the horny one, etc.

Of course, one shouldn't go to see "Doom" for an intriguing plot or character development. The main attraction here is the action, and while not always original, it generally manages to be entertaining. Things certainly begin quickly, with only 10 minutes between the beginning of the movie and the arrival on Mars.

Like the game, the movie is dark, which adds atmosphere to the proceedings. The locations of the action could have been more interesting, however, with obligatory fire fights in immaculate steely hallways, sewers, and a bathroom, although these locations are faithful to those in the computer games. Most of the weapons in the game make appearances in the movie as well, including the chain saw, pistols, machine guns, the chain-gun, and the BFG (use your imagination). The utilization of the bigger guns is somewhat disappointing however, especially in the case of the BFG, which is almost worshipped during its introduction, yet is only used twice on screen. The film does get credit, however, for one inventive scene in an electrified holding cell involving use of a computer monitor.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of "Doom" is a sequence towards the end of the film in which the camera takes the first person point of view of a marine as he battles against the monsters that have infested the facility. Here again the film pays homage to the games by having its footage mimic gameplay. While Bartkowiak should be credited for directing in the spirit of the source material, he should also be criticized for using a camera angle that limits view of the action, separates the audience from the characters, and is actually boring, as a movie isn't interactive. Fans of "Doom" will appreciate the sequence for the tie-in, but otherwise the action is less exciting than it could have been.

Fans will be impressed by references to the games and probably won't be bothered that the movie has no plot. As a result, they might find "Doom" enjoyable. Anyone else should probably give it a miss.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

**"Doom," based on the best-selling first-person shooter computer games, is mildly entertaining but ultimately unsatisfying.**

# ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Excellent  
 ★★★: Good  
 ★★: Average  
 ★: Poor

★★½ **The 40-Year Old Virgin**  
 Andy Stitzer (Steve Carell) is the consummate dork who collects action figures, bikes to work, and stays far away from women. Without any friends, there's no one to tell him what he's missing. The generally artificial scenes and outrageously unbelievable characters are not noticed much because the movie makes you laugh so hard that you can barely put more popcorn in your mouth. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★ **A History of Violence**  
 After killing two men in his diner out of self defense, Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen) is forced by the mob to confront his past. There is a moment during the film when you wonder what it's all about, not because it's too deep, but because too many things are happening, and nothing seems to come together. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★½ **The Aristocrats**  
 This film features Hollywood notables delivering and analyzing what co-creator Penn Jillette

touts as "the dirtiest joke you will ever hear." And with the rabid incest, bestiality, child rape, and bodily fluids (and solids), hopefully it is. The joke — too vulgar to repeat in any form here — isn't even funny. (Kathy Lin)

★★★★½ **The Constant Gardener**  
 Though this may appear to be a film about the drug companies taking advantage of Africans, it is in fact a story about what a man will do for a woman he loves with every ounce of his strength. If you want a smart film that's not only well done but is also pleasing to watch, this is a must. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★★½ **Corpse Bride**  
 Tim Burton's latest feature is a dark-hued romantic fantasy, which combines an unconventional story with subtle satire and unusual cinematographic techniques to deliver a truly delectable treat. Factor in the vocal talents of a remarkable cast and Danny Elfman's sparkling music, and you have a masterpiece you won't regret watching over and over again. (Bogdan Fedeles)

★★★ **Domino**  
 Loosely based on the true story of Domino Harvey, this well-paced thrill ride recounts

the tale of the model-turned-bounty-hunter, disgusted with the pretensions of 90210-ers and wanting to live life on her own terms. Played with rebellious fire by Kiera Knightley, Domino turned her back on a privileged life and became one of the most notorious bounty hunters in Los Angeles, hunting down society's nastiest criminals and bringing them to the law. (Danbee Kim)

★★½  **Elizabethtown**  
 Would you feel like committing suicide if your company lost \$972 million on your watch? Drew Baylor (Orlando Bloom), is responsible for exactly that at the beginning of this film. When Drew heads home to cope with the death of his father, he falls in love with Claire (Kirsten Dunst), a flight attendant, mends ties with his Kentucky family, and addresses his feelings about the spectacular failure of his line of shoes. (Natania Antler)

★★★ **Good Night, and Good Luck**  
 In the era of McCarthyism, one reporter from CBS, Edward R. Murrow (David Strathairn), went on the air to take down Senator McCarthy and his fire-and-brimstone tactics. The

gaudiness and questionable quality of current national news networks contrasts with the work done by Murrow in this film. It represents a quick break from the onslaught of violent images and biased reporting, providing a model for the highest level in TV broadcasting. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★½ **The Greatest Game Ever Played**  
 Think "Cinderella Man" with golf clubs instead of boxing gloves. This movie easily falls short of the greatest golf movie ever made, but it will satisfy your appetite for a feel-good entertaining movie for the better portion of the two hours. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★ **In Her Shoes**  
 Maggie (Cameron Diaz) is sassy, flirty, and carefree, willing to let her looks pay her way through life. Her sister Rose (Toni Collette) is a self-conscious workaholic who tries to be responsible enough for both herself and Maggie. It isn't until they learn to step into each other's shoes and understand their relationship from the other's perspective that they can fully appreciate their sisterhood. (Danbee Kim)

★½ **Into the Blue**  
 Hollywood frequently brings us thrillers that fail to weave action and story together into an entertaining film. It's been a while, however, since I've seen one with so little meaning in its story. With shots of treasure hunters swimming around in the Caribbean stumbling across some mystery, this movie is crammed full of cheesy drama and lacks quality action scenes. (Nikhil Nadkarni)

★★★ **Proof**  
 Hollywood once again successfully brings together mathematical genius and mental illness. For the first time on the big screen is a woman whose experiences highlight important challenges facing women in math and science today. (Kathy Lin)

★★★★½ **Serenity**  
 This film, an adaptation of the TV show "Firefly," is both a fanatic-pleasing romp and an action-packed introduction to a fabulous new world. See it because you'll experience adventure, laughter, thoughtfulness, intelligence, and damn good storytelling. (Nivair H. Gabriel)

★½ **Two for the Money**  
 This drama about high stakes sports gambling examines a failed football star drawn into the sports betting business. The lack of development leaves the audience feeling cheated and empty, which makes the movie nice to look at but not so wonderful to think about. (Yong-yi Zhu)

Compiled by Kevin Der

## Let's Roll



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?

- a) Depression is a bunch of symptoms exhibited by weak people.
- b) Depression is an unbearable suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone.

Straightening out all the misconceptions, the correct answer is 'b'. It's a concept we should all understand and remember, and here's why. Depression strikes millions of young adults, but only 1 out of 5 ever seeks treatment for it. Too many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide. Why not treatment? Partly lack of awareness. Partly the unwarranted negative stigma. This is what needs fixing. This is where we need you to change your attitudes. It's an illness, not a weakness. And it's readily treatable.

Spreading the word and making this common knowledge is everybody's assignment.

**UNTREATED  
 DEPRESSION**

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness\Voices of Education)

<http://www.save.org>

This space donated by The Tech

October 21,  
2005

# COMICS

The  
Tech

# FUN

Page  
11

# PAGES

## Trio

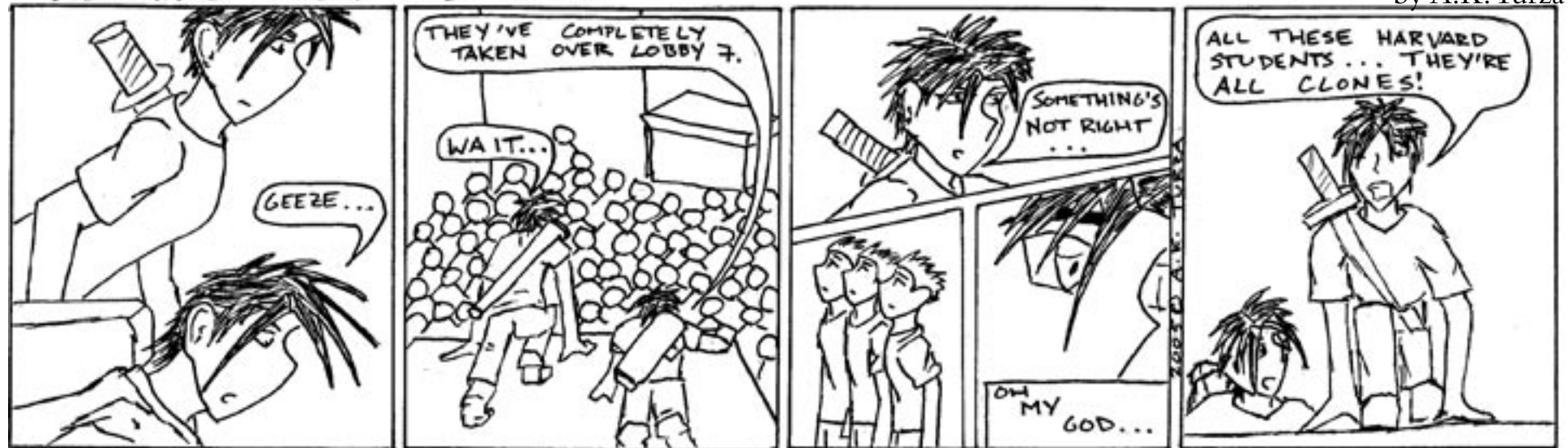
Updated character profiles: [ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE](http://ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE)

by Emezie Okorafor



## DEVIANTS FROM THE NORM

by A.K. Turza



[030] THE SHOCKING TRUTH

## Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta



## FVCKED

by Colin Dillard



# Schleminkel



# su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contain exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 16.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

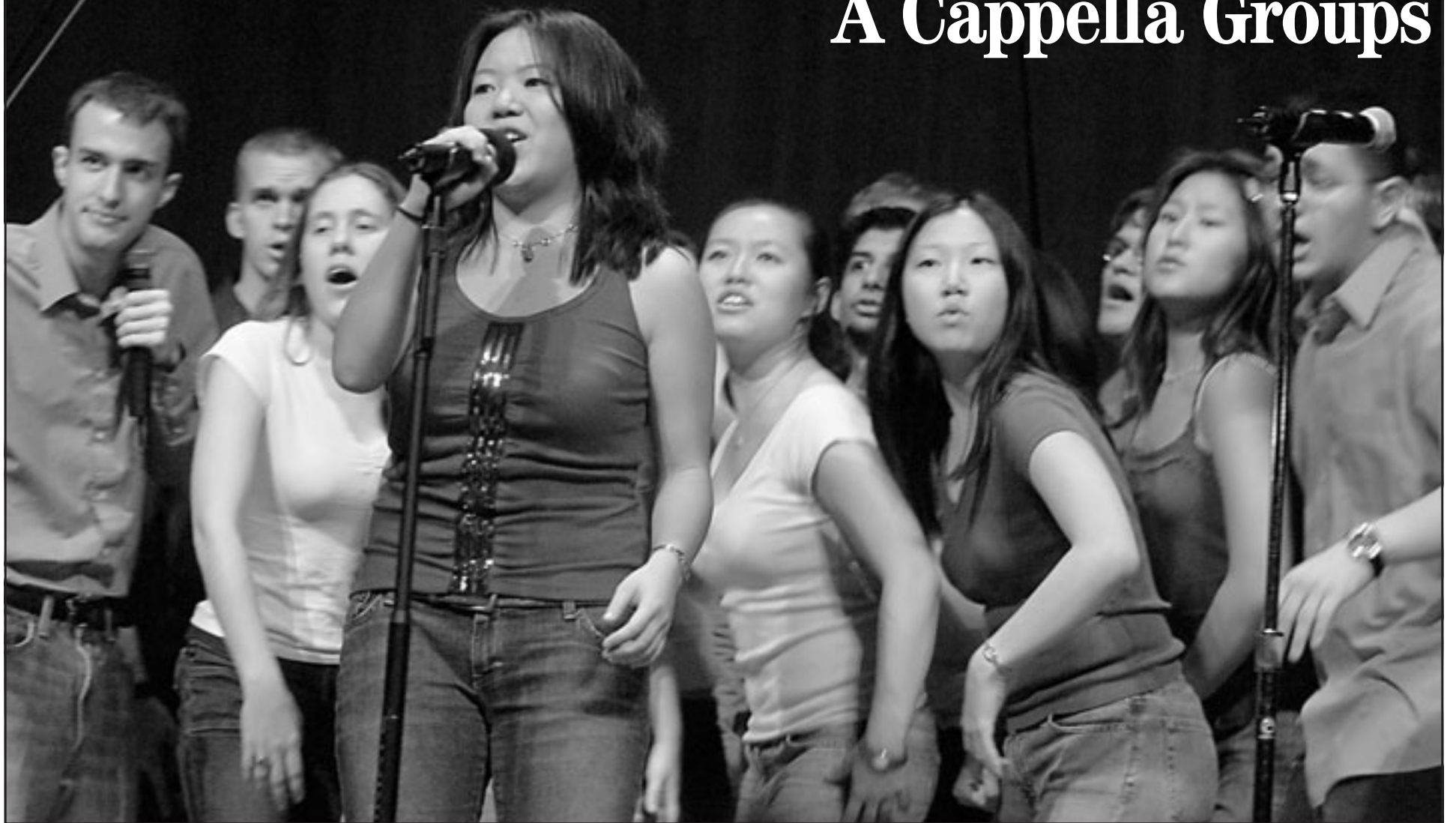
## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 15

## FoxTrot by Bill Amend

## Dilbert® by Scott Adams

# GBIS Brings Out the Best From MIT's A Cappella Groups



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

The Greater Boston Invitational Songfest, held last Saturday, Oct. 15 in Kresge Auditorium, is an annual Family Weekend event featuring all of the a cappella groups on campus.

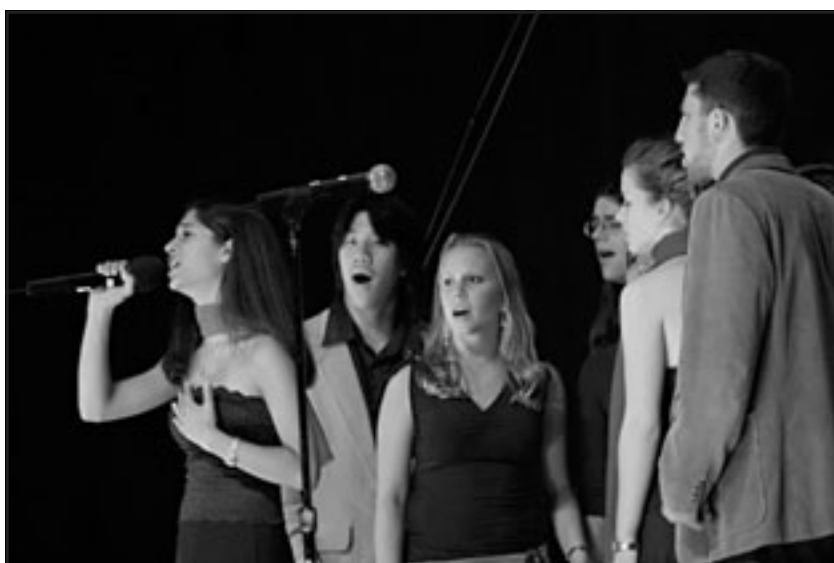
(Clockwise from above)

An intense singer from the MIT Chorallaries belts out a note. Resonance member Michelle M. Yam '07 makes singing "Harder to Breathe" (Original artist: Maroon 5) look easy. Stephanie H. Cho '06 leads the Muses as they perform "Feel Good Time" (Original artist: Pink) and make a Charlie's Angels pose. Esther Chung '09 of the Cross Products hits a high note in "More to Life" (Original artist: Stacie Orrico). Zachary M. Eisenstat '06 of the MIT/Wellesley Toons sings. The Toons' Jennifer D. Lobo '07 puts her heart into a song.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

See review, page 6.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

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# Revamped GRE Will Be Longer And Feature Stronger Security Changes to Be Made by Next October, Will Address Cheating

By Tamar Lewin  
 THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Graduate Record Exam, the graduate-school entrance exam, will be revamped and lengthened as of next October in an effort to give graduate schools a more useful measure of students' ability and to prevent cheating.

Although the test will still include sections on verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and analytical writing, every section is being revised, and the test lengthened to about four hours, from two and a half hours. About 500,000 students, 20 percent to 25 percent of them foreigners, take the general G.R.E. each year. E.T.S., which administers the test, also offers subject-matter tests in such fields as biology, mathematics and physics, but those tests, taken by far fewer students, are not being changed.

To enhance security, every question on the new exams will be used only once, and the test will start at different times in different time zones, so students who have finished cannot pass on questions to those in different zones.

"The revamp is in response to graduate schools' desires for additional information on students' ability in verbal reasoning and quantitative," said David Payne, executive director of the G.R.E. program. "It's also very much security, and to ensure that the scores we report are valid."

Security has been a big issue for E.T.S. since a 2002 incident in which an undetermined number of

students in China, Taiwan and South Korea raised their G.R.E. verbal scores by logging on to Web sites in those countries and memorizing questions and answers posted by previous test takers. Later that year, two Columbia University undergraduates were arrested for using high-tech transmitters to send out test questions.

"Security has been a real concern," said Susan Kaplan, director of the graduate program at Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions. "E.T.S. is also planning to cut back on how often the test is administered. Right now, it's given almost every day of the year, but so far, it sounds like it will be offered about 30 times a year."

As of next year, the test will no longer be "computer adaptive," with test-takers getting questions tailored to their performance on previous questions, so that each gets challenging questions that provide a clear picture of what they can do. Instead, every student taking the test on a particular day will get the same questions, and those questions will not be reused.

Mr. Payne said the old approach required a huge number of questions, making it unwieldy if each administration was to have all-new questions.

"The personal tailoring is really powerful from a psychometric perspective, but to get a good assessment, you have to have a large number of questions," he said. "And if examinees go out there and share

the questions they got with others who then happen to get the same questions, their scores can go up dramatically. We want to be sure the scores we report are valid."

On the new exams, the verbal reasoning section will consist of two 40-minute sections rather than one 30-minute section, and will place less emphasis on vocabulary and more on higher cognitive skills. "Instead of antonyms and analogies, which depend on vocabulary, we want to measure the ability to understand reading passages, so we would ask students to indicate the sentence in a passage where the author presents an argument contrary to his thesis, or find the two sentences that are equivalent," Mr. Payne said.

The quantitative reasoning section will grow from one 45-minute section to two 40-minute sections, with fewer geometry questions and more on interpreting tables and graphs. And the analytical writing measure, which had a 45-minute essay and a 30-minute essay, will now have two 30-minute essays.

E.T.S. began field-testing the new exams earlier this month.

"I wonder if it's going to be a test too far," said Robert Schaeffer, public education director at FairTest, which opposes the broad use of standardized testing. "They're changing the length, the range and the format all at once, so it could prompt the same kind of backlash among students and admissions offices alike as the new SAT has. It's true that the old test didn't do a good job of predicting graduate school performance, but when you add in everything everybody asks for, you get a camel — a camel being a horse built by committee."

## Burchard Scholars Program

### All MIT Juniors and Sophomores

The 2006 Burchard Scholars Program Is Now Accepting Applications  
 On Line

<http://web.mit.edu/shass/undergraduate/scholarships/burchard/index.shtml>

The Burchard Scholars Program brings together members of the MIT faculty with juniors and sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. 30 Burchard Scholars are invited to a series of dinner-seminars throughout the year to discuss topics of current research or interest by faculty members, visiting scholars, and Burchard Scholars. The 2006 program begins in February.

For information or an application, contact: Dean's Office, SHASS, E51-255 (x3-8961) or the HASS Information Office, 14N-408 (x3-4443).

**PLEASE NOTE - Application Deadline is DECEMBER 1, 2005**

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# Blogs Give Outsiders an MIT Perspective

## Prospectives Can Learn About Admissions, Financial Aid, Life As an MIT Student

Blogs, from Page 1

phenomenon. If you've spent time on the internet, chances are you've run into some type of online journal or publication.

"This is one of those rare instances when the world of admissions is on par with technology," says Bryan G. Nance, director of minority recruitment. The internet is full of bloggers (those who publish weblogs) documenting everyday life with pictures, videos, and online periodic publications that resemble web-based journals. Blogs are used by corporations, political campaigns, media programs, and more recently the MIT Admissions Office to disseminate personalized information to a large audience.

MITBlogs, launched in Sept. 2004, is a collection of weblogs written by admissions officers and current MIT students that is available online to the general public. Consisting of four admissions officer and 11 student blogs (representing all four years at MIT), MITBlogs offers information on a wide range of topics, including a guest blog, presented by Tim the Beaver with highlighted articles by Director of Recruitment Jennifer Rifken, Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones, and Stuart Schmill, director of the educational council.

Since its introduction, MITBlogs has proved an invaluable resource to the admissions process. "We want to keep college admissions to a higher ideal by addressing what applicants are thinking about and worried about," said Matthew L. McGann '00, assistant director of admissions.

"The driving force is student response," said Ben Jones. "It's 100 percent real and 100 percent believable." MITBlogs allows prospective students to connect with current MIT students as well as admissions staff, allowing a more comfortable approach to the admissions process. "MIT sells itself when you get the real story," he said.

Because student bloggers at MIT are employed by the admissions office, some may question the validity of the content of MITBlogs. After all, blogging is simply another tool used by the admissions office to attract new students to MIT. Student MITBlogs are completely unedited by admissions staff, ensuring that blogs at MIT are publicizing the important aspects of student's lives, be it positive or negative. Students often offer sobering accounts of their experiences at MIT.

"I want to write something substantial and with a purpose, but I also want to show an accurate representation of MIT life, still real but not candy coated," said Anthony C. Rizos '09 and an MITBlogger. "Blogging makes me stop and think about what I am doing here. I would never do that ordinarily."

As can be seen by the response to MITBlogs over the past year, high school students appear to be much more receptive to stories and articles written by their peers than those of admissions officers. This feeling is bolstered by the feedback received through their comments on MIT student blogs.

MITBlogs also offers another alluring aspect: the ability to post comments, anonymous or otherwise, at the bottom of an entry. This creates a positive feedback loop whereby pro-

spective students and other readers are able to post their thoughts, ask questions, or make comments regarding a certain entry. In a sense, the ability to comment creates an online community of readers and bloggers that is not available in other written publications. Imagine being able to pick up the daily newspaper, jot some questions at the bottom of the article, and receive feedback in response to your query before you've finished your coffee.

Response for MITBlogs has been overwhelmingly positive, from both students and parents. "I think these admissions blogs are the greatest

recruitment tool I have seen in my college search so far," wrote Katrina, a prospective

member of the Class of 2010, in Ben Jones's blog. "It is so much nicer to read what real people are doing than it is to read canned things about how great [x] university is."

Parents are also placated when they discover that having a social life at MIT is not only possible, but common.

The admissions process can be stressful enough without adding levels of abstraction between the prospective student and the college itself. MITBlogs shines as a direct

and easily accessible guide for topics ranging from student life and extracurricular activities to coursework and residential housing at the Institute.

MIT is currently the only campus that provides such a high level of feedback and sense of community to prospective students through blogs. At last year's Campus Preview Weekend, students meeting in person and for the first time already felt a strong sense of friendship through their previous communication on MITBlogs. To see so many students connecting with others after only one day on campus is unprecedented, Ben Jones said.

MITBlogs can be accessed through a username at MyMIT, <http://my.mit.edu/>, or as a link from any of the member blogs, for example, <http://ben.mitblogs.com/>.

*"Blogging makes me stop and think about what I am doing here. I would never do that ordinarily."*  
Anthony C. Rizos '09



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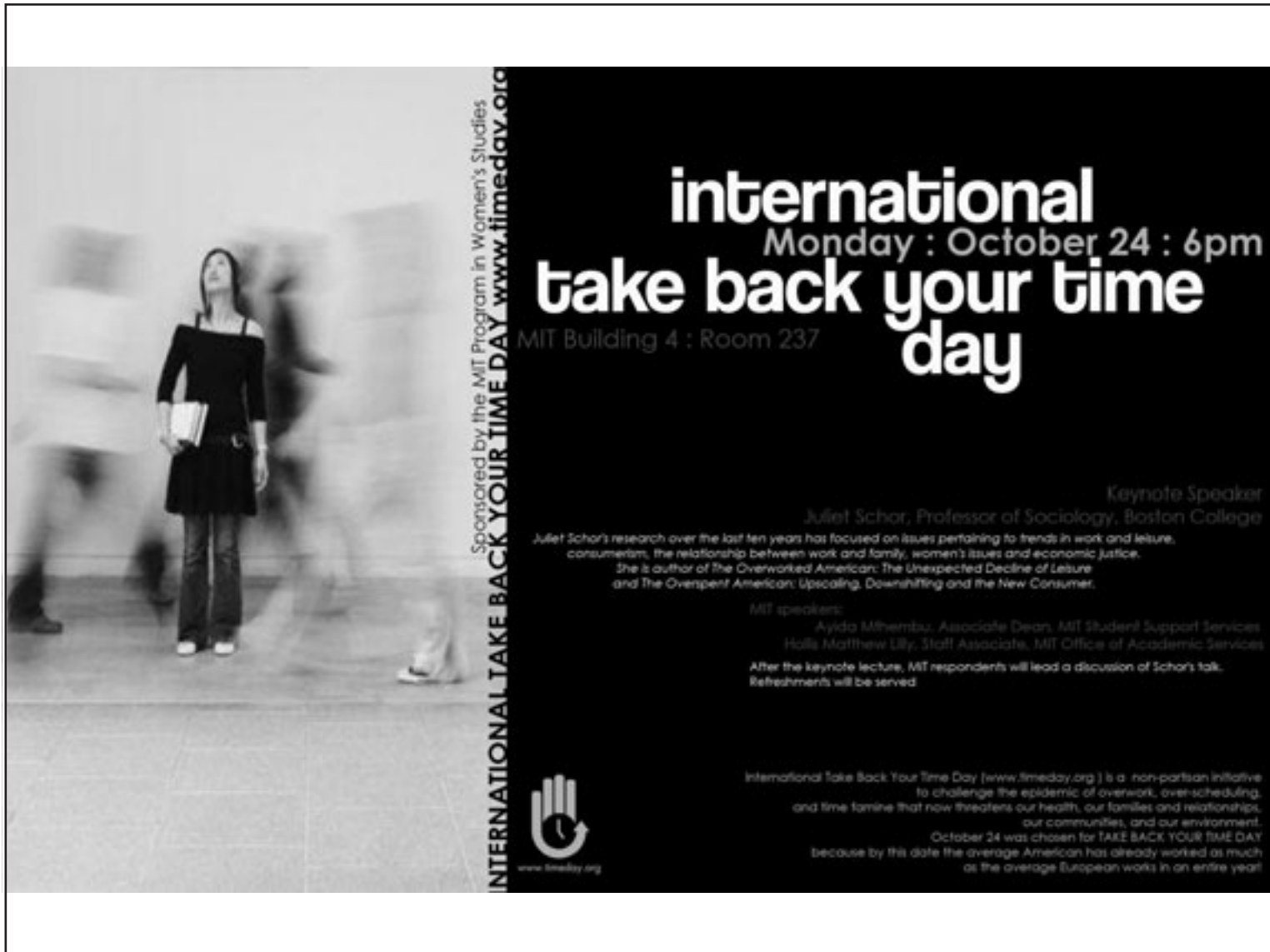
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international  
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take back your time  
day  
MIT Building 4 : Room 237

Keynote Speaker  
Juliet Schor, Professor of Sociology, Boston College

Juliet Schor's research over the last ten years has focused on issues pertaining to trends in work and leisure, consumerism, the relationship between work and family, women's issues and economic justice. She is author of *The Overworked American: The Unexpected Decline of Leisure* and *The Overpent American: Upscaling, Downshifting and the New Consumer*.

MIT speakers:  
Ayida Mithemba, Associate Dean, MIT Student Support Services  
Holly Matthew Lilly, Staff Associate, MIT Office of Academic Services

After the keynote lecture, MIT respondents will lead a discussion of Schor's talk. Refreshments will be served.

International Take Back Your Time Day ([www.timeday.org](http://www.timeday.org)) is a non-partisan initiative to challenge the epidemic of overwork, over-scheduling, and time famine that now threatens our health, our families, our relationships, our communities, and our environment. October 24 was chosen for TAKE BACK YOUR TIME DAY because by this date the average American has already worked as much as the average European works in an entire year.

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**Solution to Crossword**  
from page 12

S	C	A	R	D	E	B	T	S	O	A	H	U		
O	O	Z	E	A	L	O	H	A	U	R	I	S		
I	C	O	N	P	A	N	E	L	G	A	L	E		
L	O	V	E	T	H	Y	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R
				G	U	N	N	Y	N	O	T			
S	A	R	A	L	E	E	E	G	O	P	A	L		
A	C	I	D	S	A	P	E	B	L	U	E			
L	O	V	E	A	N	D	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E
E	R	A	S	E	V	A	A	B	N	E	R			
S	N	L	M	A	D	W	A	I	L	E	R	S		
			Y	I	P	P	A	S	T	E				
L	O	V	E	A	T	F	I	R	S	T	B	I	T	E
P	R	I	M	I	R	E	N	E	E	D	E	N		
G	A	V	E	D	O	T	E	S	L	E	A	D		
A	L	A	N	E	G	A	D	S	T	A	M	S		

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# Violence Prevention Grant Uses Are Currently Under Discussion

Grant, from Page 1

for the two-year grant. Stuart will serve as the director of any projects stemming from the grant, with help from Kirkbride. A coordinated community response

group, composed of both adults and students, has been formed and has discussed possible ways to conduct a session about violence against women for freshman orientation next year, with names of possible speakers suggested. The committee also has general ideas about possible programs to train faculty, staff, and students, including a proposed freshman life skills seminar.

Center, the Asian Taskforce Against Domestic Violence, and the Victim Witness Services Bureau of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, as well as over 40 groups based at MIT.

"I'm excited about the formal collaboration between MIT and the local organizations," Stuart said. These local centers already receive students from MIT, but now they can provide MIT with more perspectives on violence crimes against women, as well as information about programs other local colleges have in place.

## Meetings address protocol

The Center for Health Promotion and Wellness of MIT Medical held the first of a series of three Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Coordinated Community Response Groups on Sept. 20 and hosted the second meeting on Oct. 19.

One of the grant's goals, a new protocol for MIT Medical staff to tend to victims of violence crimes, was reviewed at the second meeting, Stuart said. She said that the protocol is in the process of being amended following suggestions proposed at the CRG meeting and will be approved and implemented soon.

In addition to the members of the grant proposal committee, meeting attendees included representatives from the Boston Area Rape Crisis

The CRG first came together at the September meeting, when all questions about the grant were answered by Stuart and others on the grant proposal committee. Current programs at MIT that deal with violence against women were also discussed. Stuart said that this meeting was the first time at MIT that so many people from different groups participated in a discussion on the subject.

"In my opinion, the thing that is going to make this grant work is student involvement," Stuart said, because students can become involved with the grant and the CRG, as well as submit ideas for effectively using the money.

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Mark Jen is a Producer at Plaxo. Before joining Plaxo, Mark was an Associate Product Manager at Google, a Program Manager at Microsoft, and a Software Engineer at IBM. You may have read about him in various newspapers and magazines including *Business Week's* May Cover story "Blogs will change your business", multiple articles in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and even in *People Magazine*. Mark graduated in 2003 from the University of Michigan with a B.S.E. in Computer Engineering.

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*an interview with him.* Who is Plaxo? Plaxo is a fast-paced technology startup located in Mt View, CA. We are a privately held company funded by leading investment and technology firms as well as strong individual investors: Sequoia Capital, Cisco Systems, Globespan Capital Partners, Harbinger Venture Management, Ram Shriram and Tim Koogle. Our product and our company are about creating a Web-of-Trust: a trusted and secure way to manage and translate address books and personal information; to update only those people you know, and to do this on multiple platforms. We are growing rapidly both in partnerships and customer base. Our recent partnership with AOL will offer us the opportunity to provide our service to the 35+ million users on AIM and AOL Mail, as well as our 5+ million current users. We're looking for bright, talented people who are great at what they do and enjoy building exceptional software and products.

Where: The Kendall Hotel, 350 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02142

When: Monday November 7th, 2005, 7-9pm.

How: RSVP to [stuart@plaxo.com](mailto:stuart@plaxo.com) or just drop in

What: We will be serving food, so bring your appetite & your friends

Interviews: Tuesday November 8th 9am-3pm at MIT through InterviewTRAK (monsterTrak Event ID: #909664)

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# College Board Survey: Tuition Growth Slower, But Outpaces Inflation

By Sam Dillon  
 THE NEW YORK TIMES

Average college tuition grew more quickly than did overall inflation again this year, although the rate of increase slowed after a period of explosive growth, according to an annual survey released here today by the College Board.

Tuition at public universities was up on average by \$365 or 7.1 percent this fall, after a year in which overall inflation totaled 4.7 percent. Private universities increased tuition by \$1,190 or 5.9 percent. Two-year community colleges increased tuition on average by \$112, or about 5.4 percent, the survey said.

And while various forms of student aid are available, the fastest-growing form was private student

loans, the survey said. In the last two years, public universities had raised tuition by 10 percent and 13 percent, and the slowing growth rates registered in this year's survey were a relief to higher education leaders who have felt a public backlash over campus costs that are outstripping increases in the rest of the economy.

"I'm delighted to hear that there's some moderation in the rate of growth, and I hope we can sustain that," said David Ward, president of the American Council on Education, the nation's largest association of universities and colleges. "There's a deep and growing public anxiety about affordability, and we in higher education must be sensitive to it."

Total expenses — including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses — now average \$15,566 for an undergraduate student attending a public university in her own state, the survey said. Total expenses at private universities now average \$31,916.

The survey of more than 3,000 post-secondary schools did not offer a comprehensive list of reasons for the tuition increases, although it reported that the prices of goods and services that universities purchase have risen rapidly in recent years. Among the fastest-growing costs have been employee health benefits, professional salaries and utilities, the survey said.

One reason tuition has been rising fast in public universities is that state legislatures across the nation have drastically reduced higher education appropriations to close state budget deficits.

## Solution to Sudoku

from page 12

3	1	8	5	4	6	7	9	2
4	7	5	1	2	9	6	8	3
9	2	6	8	3	7	5	1	4
5	8	1	3	7	2	9	4	6
7	3	9	4	6	5	1	2	8
6	4	2	9	1	8	3	5	7
2	6	4	7	9	1	8	3	5
1	5	7	2	8	3	4	6	9
8	9	3	6	5	4	2	7	1

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# Preliminary Proposal of Universal T Pass Draws Differing Reactions

## Plan Would Require All MIT Students and Staff to Participate

T Pass, from Page 1

changes to T-passes at MIT" over GSC e-mail lists in late September. While some respondents likened it to mandatory health insurance and argued that it would be beneficial to the community overall, others called it socialism and emphasized the new cost burden on those who rarely took the T.

All the controversy may be premature; according to Hester (who now works as a member of the MBTA advisory board), the MBTA would be unlikely to introduce a new fare structure for students before they finish upgrading their fare collection system to the Charlie card, scheduled for the end of 2007.

One possible implementation of the proposal might be the integration of Charlie-card capabilities in the MIT ID card, allowing cardholders to swipe the ID's for access to the T.

Posting to the same discussion list, Michael Hanowsky, head of the GSC Safety and Transportation Committee, wrote that both MIT and the MBTA had expressed interest in potentially implementing the proposal.

Hester suggested several speculative pricing models. Under the local plan, every student and employee would pay about \$10 (compared to the current \$35 under the T-Pass program) to get the equivalent of a "Combo" T pass, which allows unlimited travel on local bus and subway services), while the university would pay a lump sum to the MBTA of about \$1.5 million, about the amount MIT pays with the current T-Pass program. Plans that included Commuter Rail access would cost more per person, but still under \$20 monthly, with several possible models for how the additional cost would be distributed.

The proposal would effectively ask the MBTA to allow MIT to redistribute the access that MIT already buys for specific subscri-

ers to all students and employees in exchange for increasing MBTA ridership.

Each student or employee would pay significantly less than they do now (\$10 vs. \$35) for the equivalent of a "Combo" T-pass; in order for the program to be cost-effective however, every student and employee would have to buy into the program, with a few exceptions (say, in case of physical disability).

Reached by e-mail this week, Hanowsky denied that there was any proposal in the works, emphasizing that "the U-Pass or universal access pass has \*not\* been discussed by the [GSC safety and transportation] committee," and that "we need to do more research and thinking about exactly how students will benefit" before initiating any formal discussion. Schmidt was "unable to comment on the state of this project" at this time.

### Members now buy half-price passes

Currently, the MIT Parking and Transportation Office receives a discount of about 11 percent from the MBTA when it buys passes in bulk from the corporate and semester T pass programs for employees and students, respectively. In Fiscal Year 2005, it spent over \$3.5 million on T passes, which are resold to willing members of the MIT community at half the face-value price. Therefore, in actuality, MIT paid approximately four ninths of the \$3.5 million.

The T-Pass program is funded by the Employee Benefit Pool for staff and General Institute Budget for students. Of the 5000 or so T passes distributed this month, almost 2700 went to employees, while over 1200 went to graduate students, and slightly fewer than 900 went to undergraduates.

So what's in it for MIT? Larry Brutti, operations manager for the MIT Parking and Transportation Office, cited three reasons for the subsidies: City of Cambridge demands to reduce traffic congestion (mandating that MIT provide public transportation subsidies in exchange for permits to construct Simmons Hall and the Media Lab expansion), the limited availability and cost of providing parking spaces on campus (limited to about 4000 by the City) and "doing our part for the environment." Improving the quality of student life by enhancing access to off-campus destinations was not cited as a reason, although it may be a fortunate side effect, he said.

A number of colleges across the country have instituted universal pass programs over the past 10 years, providing students with universal access to public transportation at prices comparable to what has been proposed at MIT. For example, the Chicago Transit Authority has offered a U-Pass plan since 1998, and Northwestern University and a large number of Chicago area colleges participate.

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## Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge and/or MIT Police between Oct. 11 and Oct. 18. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, medical shuttles, or isolated incidents of theft.

Oct. 14: E60 30 Memorial Dr., Attempted breaking and entering.

Oct. 14: 77 Massachusetts Ave., Witness reports a woman was assaulted by male.

Oct. 16: Baker House (362 Memorial Dr.) Wallet and cell phone stolen.

Compiled by Marjan Rafat and Tai DaCosta with assistance from other members of the MIT Crime Club.

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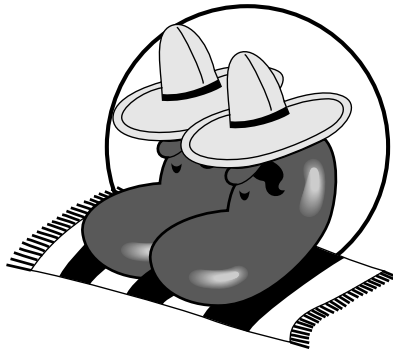
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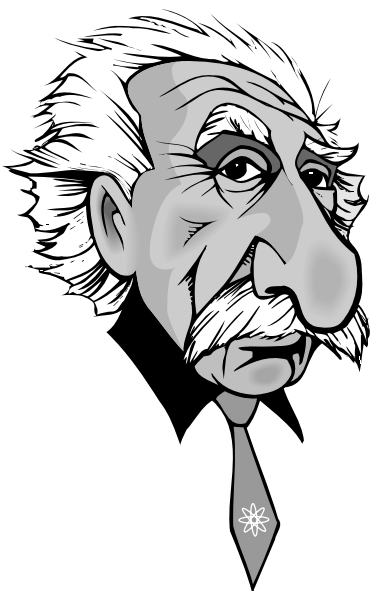
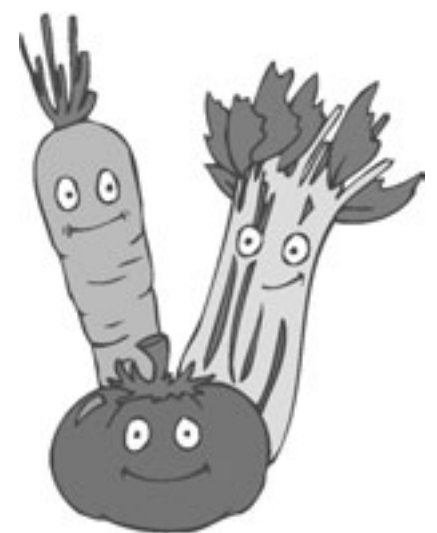
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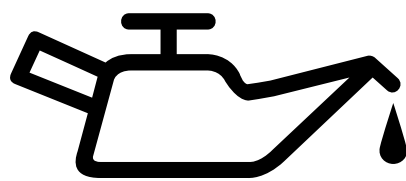
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## SPORTS

# Women's Volleyball Defeats Springfield

By Paul Dill  
TEAM COACH

In a battle of conference unbeaten, MIT (6-0 in conference, 22-5 overall) traveled to Springfield College (6-0 in conference, 21-4 overall) to play a match that could have major conference tournament implications.

The Engineers took control of the match early as senior setter Austin Zimmerman '06 connected time and time again with fellow classmate Caroline D. Jordan '06 on what has become one of the most effective and dynamic slide attacks in the region. When it wasn't Jordan, Springfield was continually confounded by both Briana J. Stephenson '07 and Alex N. Huston-Carico '08, who added 15 and 10 kills for the match respectively.

After winning the first two games by scores of 30-26 and 30-26, MIT faced a much more determined Springfield squad in the third game. Knowing what was at stake and not wanting to be embarrassed in front of their raucous home crowd, the Pride picked up their defense and intensity to take a big 24-14 lead. The Engineers finally pushed back and

made it a much closer game before falling 30-23.

Even though the Engineers did not pull out the third game, they gained some valuable momentum going into the next game. MIT picked up in the fourth game where they had left off in the third keeping Springfield under constant pressure and not allowing them to get their offense going.

Arlis A. Reynolds '06, Carrie C. Buchanan '08 and Lindsay E. Hunting '09 anchored the defense picking up every tip and roll shot as well as taking their opponents out of their offense with strong serving runs. With strong play all around, MIT took a 20-11 lead. After withstanding a strong push by Springfield, the Engineers finally finished them off as Rose Zhong '08 won a joust at the net to win the game 30-24 and the match 3-1.

The Engineers are currently 7-0 in the NEWMAC and 23-5 overall with a New England regional ranking of No. 2. The next home match will be a crucial one against Smith College on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. in Rockwell Cage.

# Expect an Offensive Battle Sunday As the Steelers, Bengals Face Off

By Yong-yi Zhu  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Here's a preview of this week's NFL games:

## Game of the Week: Steelers at Bengals

Big Ben is back and that means trouble for the Bengals, who almost lost to the Titans last week. The Steelers now know how much they need their starting quarterback. This game will be high scoring with two talented offenses. The Steelers will win by correcting the mistakes they made against the Jaguars last week.

## Column

### Upset Special: Chargers at Eagles

The bettors may be billing the Eagles in this game, but I think Chargers RB LaDarian Tomlinson will be too much for that Philadelphia defense. He put on a major show last week and will continue to build his resume this week. The Eagles will score a lot too, but because of their week off, they will not be as sharp. Look for the Bolts to win by a field goal.

### The Rundown:

**Packers at Vikings:** Two teams that are both suffering after playoff seasons last year will make a good match up. The Vikings finally understand the value of Randy Moss, as QB Daunte Culpepper can do nothing without him. They also don't have a rushing defense. The Packers

are well rested after a 52-point romp and bye week. The Cheeseheads will win by at least a TD.

**49ers at Redskins:** The 'Skins may have suffered a tough loss against the Chiefs last week, but their run defense looked solid. Since the 49ers don't have a run or a passing game, they won't muster up much scoring against the Washington defense. Take the Skins and give the points.

**Cowboys at Seahawks:** The Boys underachieved against the Giants last week but still won. Hawks' RB Shawn Alexander is about as far from underperforming as you can get. He will run well against Dallas but won't get four TD's like last week. I still look for Seattle to take the game by a touchdown or more.

**Ravens at Bears:** Can you just picture a 2-0 game? Two of the stingiest defenses collide, both coming off of division wins. Somehow, Chicago exploded last week against the Vikings, and if they were able to neutralize the Viking offense, they will stop Ravens' QB Anthony Wright.

**Broncos at Giants:** The Broncos will win this game after their big romp over New England. They don't have the greatest passing defense in the world so Giants QB Eli Manning will be successful, but they will run well against the Giants' defense.

**Bills at Raiders:** Kelly Holcomb worked out well last week and against a horrible Oakland pass defense; he will do just fine. Bills' RB Willis McGahee will play well also. The Bills will win outright; Oakland cannot contain the Bills offense and

also can't score without a running game.

**Lions at Browns:** Lions' QB Joey Harrington is struggling even with his talented receivers. Thank goodness for the Browns, who have a terrible passing defense. QB Trent Dilfer is going to be harassed a bit by the Lions secondary, which will cost Cleveland the game.

**Titans at Cardinals:** The Cardinals lose games even though they play in the horrid NFC West and have a prolific offense. The Titans challenged the Bengals last week and should win outright in the desert simply because Steve McNair is a great field general.

**Jets at Falcons:** I had too much faith in Vinny last week, picking the Jets over the Bills. I won't make the same mistake twice. The Falcons are still elated over the penalty call that saved them a trip to overtime against the Saints. They should limit the Jets' passing game as Mike Vick and Warrick Dunn run all over the place.

**Saints at Rams:** QB Marc Bulger is not playing this weekend. That means complete ineffectiveness for the Ram offense and a convincing win by the Saints.

**Chiefs at Dolphins:** The Dolphins gave up major rushing yardage last week, and this week will be no different. The Chiefs will win this game by a wide margin.

**Colts at Texans:** A team that hasn't won will host a team that hasn't lost. Enough said. Houston will lose by three touchdowns; Dom Capers will lose his job.

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

### Friday, Oct. 21, 2005

Varsity Pistol vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
5 p.m., MIT Pistol Range

### Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005

Varsity Crew — Head of the Charles  
8 a.m., Charles River

Varsity Pistol vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
9 a.m., MIT Pistol Range

Varsity Sailing — Smith Trophy  
9 a.m., Charles River

Varsity Field Hockey vs. Springfield College  
1 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Varsity Football vs. Nichols College  
1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

### Sunday, Oct. 23, 2005

Varsity Crew — Head of the Charles  
8 a.m., Charles River

2005 Third CNASA Cup Table Tennis Tournament  
9 a.m.-7 p.m., W32

Varsity Sailing — Smith Trophy  
9 a.m., Charles River



The MIT Men's Golf team finished 27th out of 45 schools at the 71st New England Intercollegiate Golf Association Championship.

Anthony G. Fowler '09 watches his drive during the first day.

William J. Burke '05 kicks up some grass and dirt with his drive on the first day.

Photography by Stanley Hu

Before...  ...After

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