

MIT Fires Professor Van Parijs for Using Fake Data in Papers

By Kelley Rivoire
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Professor of Biology Luk Van Parijs has been dismissed after admitting to fabricating and falsifying research data, MIT announced yesterday.

Van Parijs, who came to MIT five years ago and was promoted to associate professor last July, first came under fire in August 2004, when members of his laboratory in the Center for Cancer Research reported allegations of misconduct to MIT. They "couldn't find or identify some of the data," said Alice P. Gast, vice president for research and associate provost. Van Parijs could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The subsequent investigation launched by MIT, which Gast oversaw, concluded this week and made recommendations to Provost L. Rafael Reif, who made the decision to dismiss Van Parijs, she said. The investigation, conducted by "senior members of the community," whom Gast declined to name specifically, only concerned Van Parijs' work at MIT, she said.

There was a "serious enough set of allegations and admission by him that he was put on leave and denied access to his lab" immediately last August, Gast said.

None of his coauthors have been implicated, Gast said, and retractions will be printed on the appropriate articles. "We'll be helping the coauthors to ensure that they're all participants in retractions," but "it's the coauthors' responsibility," she said.

Gast declined to comment on which papers would be retracted or what specific body of work was affected. Van Parijs, whose research focuses on immune system functions and RNAi technologies, has published about 20 research papers

since arriving at MIT, including a 2003 paper in *Nature Genetics* that has been cited 247 times. A paper in *Science* in which he was lead author, published in 1998 before he came to MIT, has drawn 461 citations. Van Parijs obtained his doctoral degree from Harvard in 1997.

Van Parijs' coauthors in research papers include Professors Tyler E. Jacks, Rudolf Jaenisch, Harvey F. Lodish, Frank Gertler, Institute Professor and Nobel Laureate Phillip A. Sharp, and Nobel Laureate and Caltech President David Baltimore. Baltimore, who declined to comment, was previously involved in a lengthy investigation into alleged misconduct by a coauthor, who was eventually exonerated. Several of Van Parijs' other coauthors also declined to comment.

MIT's current scientific misconduct policy has been in place for over a decade, Gast said, and during that time there have been no incidents.

Gast praised the members of Van Parijs' research group who brought forward the allegations of misconduct. "It's really those closest to the research that would be able to determine or notice something like this. It's a case where the system worked, and they felt comfortable coming forward." The "process worked exactly the way you would want it to," she said.

The "investigation is a confidential process to fully gather all the facts related to the case," she said. "It involves collecting information from materials as well as interviews with the people bringing forward the allegations as well as the respondent ... as well as others involved in the research. It's a confidential process, and it was done very carefully and very thoroughly

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RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

Zahra Khan and Sadaf Ansari '03 exchange candles for donations toward Asian Earthquake relief efforts yesterday night in front of the Student Center. An earthquake of 7.6 magnitude on the Richter scale devastated the Kashmir territory of Pakistan on Oct. 8. The current official death toll is 53,182.

ASA to Assign Offices After Four-Year Delay

By Marissa Vogt
SENIOR EDITOR

The Association of Student Activities plans to allocate office space this fall for the first time since the fall of 2001. Allocations were to take place in the fall of 2003 but were not completed.

In 2003, officers of student groups requesting space were required to complete a form, and the groups were assigned priority levels in the reallocation process, though they were not assigned to offices.

Applications for office space are due on Oct. 29, after which the ASA will assign groups to categories based on priority, said Michael Shaw '07, ASA undergraduate member at large. The deadline is a firm one for student groups, though it has already been adjusted once by the ASA. The

ASA originally wanted the deadline to be earlier in October but encountered technical difficulties with the online application.

Shaw said that he believes that it is fair for the ASA to hold student groups to a strict deadline. "In order for us to be fair to all groups, we have to have a hard deadline after which we can review applications," he said.

Shaw admitted that the 48-question application "puts somewhat of a strain" on student group officers, but the allocations are "important enough to put in the necessary few hours."

Because office space is a "limited resource" that is not automatically given to all student groups,

ASA, Page 12

Final Exams Are Coming Sooner This Year

By Laura Nicholson

Thanks to this year's late start, final exams for 72 classes will be held on the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 16, interrupting reading period. However, the last day a test can be given during classes will not change.

Most years, the faculty rules and regulations provide for a five-day exam period preceded by a three or four day reading period during which no academic activities may take place. If five exam days were scheduled after this semester's reading period, the last day of finals would be Friday, Dec. 23, meaning that some students might have to travel the day before Christmas. Instead, final exams will be administered during the reading period on Friday, Dec. 16.

Because the last test date is defined as the Friday before the beginning of reading period, it will not be changed to reflect the early exam time.

If professors do not request specific exam time slots, the schedule is determined in a way that will cause the least possible number of testing conflicts for students, said Associate Registrar David Micus. No faculty members have raised concerns about this schedule, he said. The last time this scheduling anomaly occurred was during the '94-'95 Academic Year, said Assistant Registrar Ri Romano.

The final exam schedule is available at <http://web.mit.edu/registrar/www/schedules/exams.html>

In Short

¶ The January 2006 IAP Guide starts to appear on the Web today. <http://web.mit.edu/iap>. Sign up now for those hard-to-get-into classes.

¶ W. Eric Grimson PhD '80 is the new department head of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, according to an Oct. 21 announcement. Srinivas Devadas was named associate head and Duane S. Boning '84 will continue as associate head.

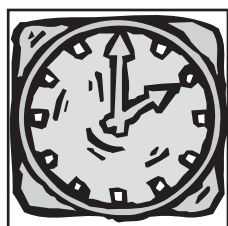
¶ Jackhammering on the roofs of Buildings 6 and 8 will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. next week as part of the PDSI renovation project.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Workers installed the sculpture *Aesop's Fables, II*, created by Mark di Suvero '89, in one of the grassy areas between the Stata Center (Building 32), the Landau Building (Building 66), and the Koch Biology Building (Building 68) yesterday.



Daylight savings time ends on Sunday. At 2 a.m., set your clock back to 1 a.m.



Comics

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ARTS

Serenus Hua '07 put on a dazzling show at MITSO's first concert last Friday.

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WORLD & NATION

Senate OKs \$8 Billion to Stockpile Bird Flu Drugs

By Carl Hulse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Trying to improve national readiness for a potential outbreak of the avian flu, the Senate on Thursday approved nearly \$8 billion to stockpile vaccines and other drugs to combat the disease and to bolster local health agencies and hospitals.

"Alarm bells must be rung," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. "The warning signs are there and we have to start preparing. The time for planning and thinking about it is past. We have to do something immediately."

The money was approved by voice vote as part of a \$145 billion spending measure that covers health, education and labor programs. The overall spending measure, which cleared the Senate, 94-3, will have to be reconciled with a similar bill passed by the House without the flu spending.

"The flu threat is dangerous and real, and we are determined to do everything we can in Congress to avoid another Katrina-like failure in the administration's response," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Facing Sanctions, Syria Mulls Steps To Rally the Home Front

By Michael Slackman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

With the threat of economic sanctions looming over Syria, officials of the governing Baath Party announced on Thursday that they would formally reconsider a decision taken 43 years ago that stripped hundreds of thousands of Kurds of their citizenship, and would also discuss the prospect of allowing multiple political parties in future elections.

Officials here have for years been promising to resolve the citizenship issue with the Kurds, and to open up Syria's one-party system. But the timing of the announcement on the official SANA News Service on Thursday — no matter how vague and noncommittal — may provide an indication of how officials are hoping to manage a political crisis incited by the investigation into the assassination of the former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

"They are trying to create a united front at home in the face of the pressures Syria is facing," said Sami Moubayed, a political analyst and writer based here.

Dutch Investigating High Toll In Fire That Killed Detainees

By Gregory Crouch and Marlise Simons

THE NEW YORK TIMES

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

The Dutch authorities were trying Thursday to determine why the death toll was so high in a fire in a detention center for drug smuggling suspects and illegal immigrants at Schiphol Airport here that killed 11 people.

It took fire squads three hours to control the blaze, which began after midnight Wednesday, and televised images showed that at least part of the detention center had been gutted. Officials said nearly 200 prisoners were being held in the prefabricated complex at the time.

At least 14 people were treated for injuries, six of whom were members of the police or security forces.

A spokesman for the local fire department said the first fire trucks arrived at the site 10 minutes after the fire began. But the question remains why so many people died.

At a news conference in Haarlemmermeer, a town near the airport, officials said part of the reason might have been that there was no quick way to release the prisoners. They said the buildings, which were a temporary holding center rather than a normal prison, had no system for opening cells simultaneously.

Miers Withdraws Under Fire From Both Sides of the Aisle

By David Stout and Timothy Williams

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Harriet E. Miers withdrew her nomination for the Supreme Court Thursday morning after weeks of increasingly heated debate over the depth of her conservative beliefs and her qualifications to fill the seat to be vacated by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Miers, President Bush's White House counsel, told the president in a letter Thursday morning that she feared that the confirmation process "presents a burden for the White House and our staff that is not in the best interest of the country." She said that even though her long career offered enough basis for senators to consider her nomination, "I am convinced the efforts to obtain executive branch materials and information will continue."

Bush issued a statement in which he accepted Miers' decision with regret, praised her "extraordinarily legal experience" and her character, and said he agreed that senators were intent on gaining access to internal White House documents about her

service. Surrendering such paperwork would undercut any president's ability to get frank and unfettered advice from key aides, Bush said.

"Harriet Miers' decision demonstrates her deep respect for this essential aspect of the Constitutional separation of powers — and confirms my deep respect and admiration for her," the president said. Bush said he would announce a new nominee "in a timely manner."

Miers' withdrawal is a severe political blow to President Bush, who had vowed to stand behind his nominee. The withdrawal comes as senior members of the Bush administration face possible indictment growing out of the disclosure of the identity of a CIA officer two years ago. Public opinion polls also show that the president's popularity has fallen dramatically as the war in Iraq continues to claim Iraqi and American lives with no end in sight. Miers called President Bush at 8:30 Wednesday evening to inform him she had decided to step aside, the president's chief spokesman, Scott McClellan, said Thursday. McClellan said the decision was hers alone, in recognition of the "unresolvable impasse" over the issue of separation

of powers. As he has repeatedly, McClellan described Miers as "extraordinarily well qualified."

Although the president and Miers cited the principle of separation of powers as the basis for her withdrawal, there appeared to be much more to it than that. The nominee had been severely criticized by senators of all political stripes — by conservatives who doubted her commitment to their cause, especially her feelings about abortion, and by moderates and liberals, who said they knew too little about her, especially since she had never been a judge.

That lack of a "paper trail" was the reason that senators offered for seeking documents related to her White House service — documents that Bush said he would never submit. Indeed, not many days ago Bush said that principle was "a red line" that he would never cross.

Coincidentally or not, Miers' withdrawal, ostensibly over the principle of separation of powers as it relates to White House papers, is the very scenario that some conservative commentators have suggested as a face-saving ploy for the nominee and the White House.

Israel Ups Reprisals for Killings On West Bank After Bombings

By Steven Erlanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israel intensified a crackdown on Palestinian areas on Thursday, imposing a curfew on the West Bank and carrying out a series of arrests. It also mounted a rocket attack on the car of two Islamic Jihad members in a crowded Gaza district, killing them and at least five passers-by.

The Israeli actions, which included banning private cars from traveling in the northern West Bank and creating sonic booms over Gaza for a third night in a row, came in response to Wednesday's suicide bombing, which killed five Israelis and wounded 20 more in a Hadera market.

"Our activity will be wide-ranging and continuous until we have brought about the cessation of terrorism," said the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

He attacked the performance of the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, saying, "The Palestinian Authority is not taking any serious measures in the fight against terrorism" and adding that he would not meet with Abbas in November as planned.

The Israeli chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz, declared "a war to the bitter end" against Islamic Jihad, the small militant group that has carried out most of the recent attacks against Israeli citizens, including the Hadera bombing.

The arrests and airstrike on Thursday were largely aimed at Islamic Jihad. Those killed in the rocket strike near the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza were Shadi Muhana, a military commander in northern Gaza, and an aide, Muhammad Razaineh.

The attack came as Palestinians were leaving the mosque after evening prayers, and hospital workers

said that in addition to the five passers-by who had been killed, another 14 had been wounded.

Islamic Jihad said the Hadera bombing was revenge for Israel's killing of a commander, Luay Saadi, in Tulkarm Sunday night. But Islamic Jihad was also responsible for suicide bombings Feb. 25 in Tel Aviv and July 12 in Netanya.

Islamic Jihad, unlike the larger Hamas, is not planning to take part in Palestinian elections, cares less about public opinion and is more directly controlled, the Israelis contend, by Iran through its leadership based in Syria.

Abbas said the bombing "harms the Palestinian interests and could widen the cycle of violence, chaos, extremism and bloodshed." But in a speech to the Palestinian parliament on Wednesday, he refrained from condemning Islamic Jihad.

WEATHER

A Dark and Damp Weekend

By Michael J. Ring

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The local weather will be very fitting for the end of daylight-saving time as another rainy, chilly weekend is in the forecast.

A low pressure system currently off the Carolina coast will strengthen and move northward today, bringing an early-season nor'easter to the region on Saturday. While the low should pass far enough offshore that the bulk of the precipitation falls on George's Bank, we will nonetheless have to contend with some rain and a raw wind off the ocean. Temperatures Saturday will struggle to get past 40°F (4°C), and the precipitation will end as snow away from the coast.

After the storm clears, however, more pleasant weather is on tap for next week. Monday and Tuesday should feature high temperatures near 60°F (16°C) — four degrees warmer than climatological means for Halloween and All Saints' Day.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy and cool. High near 48°F (9°C).

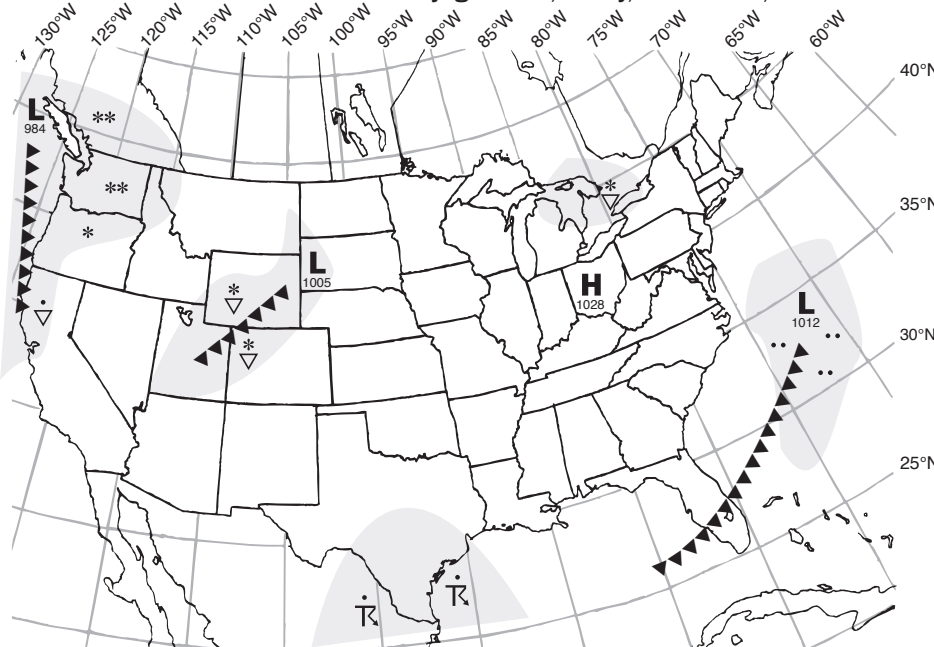
Tonight: Cloudy with showers after midnight. Low near 36°F (2°C).

Saturday: Raw with periods of rain. High near 42°F (6°C). Low near 35°F (2°C).

Sunday: Clearing and milder. High near 55°F (13°C); low near 45°F (8°C).

Monday: Partly sunny and mild. High near 60°F (16°C); low near 45°F (8°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, October 28, 2005



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Rain ▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front	Light *	Haze
	▲ Stationary Front	Moderate **	
		Heavy ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Iraqi Shiite Politicians Agree To Using a Joint Election List

By Edward Wong
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

The country's governing Shiite parties agreed Thursday to put forth a joint list of candidates in the December parliamentary elections, ensuring that the religious parties, all with strong Iranian ties, will remain a formidable force in the new government.

The Shiite parties' step, combined with a similar move by three of the country's major Sunni political parties, virtually guarantees that the vote will divide along ethnic and sectarian lines, as it did during the recent constitutional referendum and last January's elections for a transitional Parliament.

With a deadline of Friday to present a list of candidates to the Iraqi electoral commission, the Shiite

parties squabbled for much of the week, raising hopes among secular politicians like Ayad Allawi, the former prime minister, that the alliance would fracture. This could have left more votes for moderate candidates, a result favored by the Americans.

One prominent politician, Ahmad Chalabi, a deputy prime minister and onetime Pentagon favorite, is likely to leave the Shiite alliance and run on his own slate, said Ali Feisal al-Lami, one of Chalabi's closest political allies. But his departure would have little immediate impact on the alliance, since he has considerably less popular support now than the main religious groups.

Iraqi officials say it now appears that the Arab electorate will be divided along two lines, religious versus

secular and Sunni versus Shiite. The largest vote-getters will be the major Sunni or Shiite religious blocs or the large secular bloc in the middle being put together by Allawi. Kurdish voters in Baghdad and the north are expected to support a Kurdish bloc, as they did in the last elections.

Sectarian tensions flared Thursday as Shiite militiamen and the police clashed with Sunni Arab kidnappers southeast of Baghdad, leaving at least 21 dead and 17 wounded, said a Shiite leader and an Interior Ministry official. The fighting began when members of the Mahdi Army, a militia led by Muqtada al-Sadr, the rebellious Shiite cleric, raided a village called Nehrawan to free a hostage taken by insurgents, said Sheik Abdul-Zahra al-Suweidi, a senior al-Sadr official.

Science Organizations Deny Usage Of Copyright Materials to Kansas

By Jodi Wilgoren
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

Two leading science organizations have denied the Kansas board of education permission to use their copyrighted materials as part of the state's proposed new science standards because of the standards' critical approach to evolution.

The stinging rebuke from the two groups, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Teachers Association, comes less than two weeks before the state school board is expected to adopt the controversial new standards, which serve as a template for statewide tests and thus have great influence

on what is taught.

Kansas is one of an unprecedented number of states and school districts where the teaching of evolution has come under assault this year. If adopted, the standards, which also received a lukewarm review from an outside consultant, would be among the most aggressive challenges in the nation to biology's bedrock theory.

The copyright denial could delay adoption as the standards are rewritten but is unlikely to derail the board's conservative majority in its mission to require that challenges to Darwin's theories be taught in the state's classrooms.

"Kansas students will not be well-prepared for the rigors of

higher education or the demands of an increasingly complex and technologically-driven world if their science education is based on these standards," Ralph J. Cicerone, president of the National Academy, and Michael J. Padilla, president of the teachers' group, said in a joint written statement Thursday. "Instead, they will put the students of Kansas at a competitive disadvantage as they take their place in the world."

In the statement, as well as in letters to the state board, the groups opposed the standards because they would single out evolution as a controversial theory and change the definition of science itself so that it is not restricted to natural phenomena.

Guidant to Report Regularly On Its Heart Devices

By Barry Meier
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Guidant Corp., a maker of defibrillators and pacemakers, said Thursday that it planned to start issuing periodic reports that would highlight for each model the number of failures that prevented the units from delivering critical patient therapy.

The move appears to be a significant change because Guidant, like other makers of heart devices, had previously told only doctors about the total number of product malfunctions, rather than separating those that posed high risks to patients from those of lesser concern. As a result, doctors may not be aware that a particular model may be malfunctioning in a way that could harm patients or even contribute to their deaths, several device specialists have said.

Guidant, based in Indianapolis, has been criticized for failing to disclose to doctors such a high-risk defect — the tendency of two devices, a defibrillator and an advanced pacemaker, to short-circuit. Four deaths have been associated with the electrical failures of the devices.

Morgan Stanley Stars Must Sign Anti-Poaching Contracts

By Landon Thomas Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

With bonus season approaching, Morgan Stanley is taking steps to restrict its star bankers from jumping to competitors. In coming days, the firm will ask its top executives to sign contracts requiring that they wait three to six months before moving to another firm.

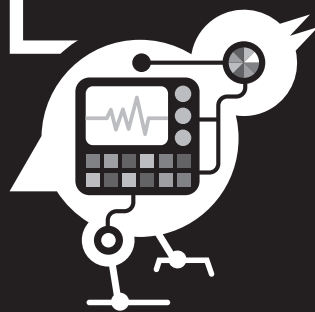
Such paid hiatuses, known as "gardening leaves," have become increasingly common on Wall Street and are intended to make it more expensive for competing firms to poach talent.

At Morgan Stanley, the waiting period has been just 30 days — a legacy of the firm's time as an exclusive Wall Street partnership. Old banking hands have long said that the prestige and pleasure of working for the firm should make such a provision unnecessary as well as contrary to its culture.

But with bankers and traders still jittery in the wake of the bitter leadership battle in the spring for control of Morgan Stanley, the chief executive, John J. Mack, seems prepared to take whatever steps are needed to ensure that his top bankers and traders do not leave the firm once informed of their bonuses on Nov. 30. Indeed, the procession of senior executive departures this past spring was one of the crucial factors that led Philip J. Purcell to step down as chief executive in June.

Since Mack has taken over, executive departures have largely ceased and morale has improved noticeably. Still, continued stagnation in the stock price as well as some recent slippage in competitive investment banking figures could make Morgan Stanley bankers vulnerable to entreaties from newly resurgent competitors.

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OPINION

Social Agenda vs. National Security

Justin Wong

In a thoughtful and well-considered opinion in *The Tech* ["The World Is Getting Smaller and Flatter," Oct. 25], Hector Hernandez states that

Letter to the Editor

MIT should "assess the inclusion of the ROTC as a student group on campus." However, I am unable to divine what specific actions he advocates by his somewhat vague assertion that MIT should "assess" ROTC. I will give Mr. Hernandez the benefit of the doubt and assume he is not advocating the expulsion of ROTC from MIT, but in any event, I will offer reasons why expelling ROTC should not be an option.

While I agree that the military policy in question is behind the times, I do not believe ending ROTC at MIT is worth the costs to our community, in particular to our peers whose enrollment at MIT depends on ROTC scholarships. Ending ROTC would deny these outstanding young cadets and midshipmen the opportunities that should be open to them on the basis of their merit. They have the double distinction of being considered among the world's greatest minds as well as the finest candidates for positions in our country's armed services. As an institution that values intellectual inquiry, MIT should nurture the quest of students for independent moral self-discovery, and some students may conclude that early preparation for leadership in the armed forces would best fulfill

Removing ROTC from MIT would also deprive our military of officers educated at one of the most technically rigorous institutions in the country.

the value they place on service to our country. We should not hinder the pursuit of these selfless dreams of our fellow students.

Removing ROTC from MIT would also deprive our military of officers educated at one of the most technically rigorous institutions in the country. In the modern battlespace, don't we want creative people well-schooled in technology to be defending us? Banning ROTC would diminish the flow of technical expertise into the military at a time when American superiority increasingly depends on advanced science and information technology.

ROTC midshipmen and cadets wouldn't be the only members of the MIT community affected by a removal of the ROTC detachments from campus; researchers who rely on the federal government to butter their bread would be affected as well. Schools that ban ROTC are prohibited from receiving federal money. The money will just go to other universities that do keep their ROTC detachments.

The professional image of MIT, which educates innovators and leaders of industry, would also suffer. As many students know from short summer experiences, political apathy is one of the most widely observed but unwritten rules in the corporate world.

MIT should set an example starting in college. Some students, myself included, and alumni/ae, have been disturbed of late by MIT's apparent inability to remain above the fray of other social and political issues, such as by filing an amicus curiae brief with the Supreme Court in 2003 in the University of Michigan affirmative action case. In addition, MIT also served as a friend of the court in an unsuccessful lawsuit challenging "don't ask, don't tell." MIT should realize that the Institute harbors a wide diversity of opinions and should not purport to speak on behalf of those who disagree.

Perhaps the most compelling reason to keep ROTC on campus is that expelling ROTC may actually hurt the cause of achieving full equality for gays and lesbians currently serving and who wish to serve. A recent poll indicates that an increasing number of servicemembers wouldn't mind serving alongside openly gay personnel. This undercuts the rationale put forth by supporters of the current ban, who say that openly gay personnel give others distracting fears of being a target of homosexual desires, undermining unit cohesion and military readiness. Given the increasing tolerance of homosexuals even among members of the military, there is no need to provoke unnecessary backlash by forcing the inevitable. In fact, removing ROTC from MIT would prevent potentially more

forward-thinking MIT graduates from changing the defense establishment from within.

The present thinking is that homosexuality undermines military readiness. If this is truly the case, I would defer to those in the military who would know better than I do,

though I consider their logic to be suspect. I pay good tax money for protection by the most fearsome fighting machine in the world, and I expect the military to do everything it can to ensure that it remains so. It's not like these experts are recommending martial law be declared — so there is little need to remove ROTC from MIT, and there would be little impact if it were.

Gays and lesbians can still serve in the military, just not openly. Little attention has been paid to the actual provisions of the gay ban, so to clarify, homosexuals are prohibited from serving, but commanders are also prohibited from asking servicemembers to disclose. Effectively, if gays do not disclose their orientation, the gay ban cannot be enforced. These principles are embodied in the words: don't ask, don't tell.

Perhaps little-considered thus far is the effect of banning ROTC for gay and lesbian students who wish to serve despite the gay ban. If they wish to forgo the catharsis of disclosure because they believe their values to be worth more, it is not our position to deny them the chance to serve. In fact, if they serve exceptionally and come out later, it further increases pressure to lift the gay ban.

Additionally, MIT already goes out of its way to provide support for LGBT students,

including safe havens, literature and video, and disproportionate amounts of funding for their extracurricular activities. Our gay and lesbian friends have also made great progress in society outside of the military. This past year, Gov. M. Jodi Rell (R-NJ) signed into law the first civil unions in the country to be legislatively enacted without a court order. Since he was elected, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) signed into law a comprehensive domestic partnership package. Legislatures in Vermont and our own state have also passed same-sex union laws at the behest of court rulings bypassing the democratic process.

To conclude, the costs of kicking ROTC out of MIT outweigh the benefits of a hollow, largely symbolic gesture unlikely to change the minds that matter. It would avail gays and lesbians nothing more than could be obtained by building more positive bridges to communities in which they work and live, outside the military. The gay ban should probably be scrapped, but kicking ROTC out of MIT would be counterproductive to that goal. The problem of discrimination in the military cannot be solved by discriminating against the military.

Justin Wong is a member of the Class of 2007.

Letters To The Editor

Perpetuating Stereotypes

To which NBA players is Yong-Yi Zhu ["Business Casual Dress Code Arrives at the NBA," Oct. 25] referring when he claims that they dress like "gangsters" and "thugs"? Who is he referring to when he says that a new dress code will curb "their" propensity for fights? His article is a testament to the reality of cultural isolation on MIT's diverse campus as well as to the negative thoughts that stem from assuming things based outward appearance and not character content. I am appalled by the fact that an article that is full of negative and hurtful racial stereotypes actually made it to print in Tuesday's paper. For shame.

Jason C. M. Atkins '06

Refreshing Frosh

These past two weeks, I have been pleasantly surprised to find raging opinion articles written by members of the Class of 2009. I would like to thank you for publishing these articles. It has now become a perverse joy of mine to wait for the next issue where the freshman is mercilessly schooled by a more sensible member of the MIT community.

Thanks again, you have brought a ray of sunshine into an otherwise rainy day.

Marcos A. Ojeda '06

Corrections

A front-page article on Tuesday gave an incorrect title for a member of Cambridge City Council candidate Jesse Gordon's staff. Ofer Inbar is a campaign staffer for Gordon, not the campaign manager.

A front-page photo caption on Tuesday incorrectly identified the location of Pritchett Grill. It is on the second floor of Walker Memorial, not the first floor.

An Oct. 21 caption for photos of the Greater Boston Invitational Songfest gave incorrect information about a performance by the Cross Products. The photo shows Tiffany L. Li '08 singing "Now That You're Near," not Esther Chung '09 singing "More to Life."



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ARTS

CLASSICAL REVIEW

Violinist Hua Shows Prowess With Carmen Fantasy

MITSO's Promising Start Complemented by Virtuoso Solo Performance

By Tony Hwang

STAFF WRITER

MIT Symphony Orchestra
Dante Anzolini, conductor
Serenus Hua '07, violin
Kresge Auditorium
Friday, Oct. 21, 2005, 8 p.m.

A large audience gathered at Kresge Auditorium on Friday evening, eager to hear the MIT Symphony Orchestra's first concert of the school year. The opening concert sets the tone for the season, allowing listeners to get a feel for what the orchestra has to offer. MITSO was happy to oblige, programming the first half of the concert with the sultry and exotic melodies of "Carmen" and then switching to a grand symphonic work of Schubert in the second half.

The quality of an orchestra's performance depends not only on the ability of individual players, but also on members' familiarity with each other. Fortunately, this year's MITSO roster consists of many returning players, thus allowing the orchestra to play cohesively. Additionally, new players feel more comfortable, as they are settling into an organized group and not struggling to find their own identity.

After some peculiarly fast tuning from the orchestra and some strange stage lighting (dim lights on stage and bright lights on the audience until after the tuning), conductor Dante Anzolini took his place on the podium and was ready to start with Bizet's "Carmen Suite No. 1." Immediately, I was impressed by the tight intonation of the group. An essential quality of a professional sound is clear intonation, and MITSO had it convincingly secured in contrast to previous concerts. However, the sheer number of violins seemed to cause the section to overpower the other strings and even the winds at times, and this imbalance was not accounted for by the vio-

linists.

The following Aragonaise and Intermezzo sections presented beautiful wind solos that were delivered cleanly. Perhaps Anzolini could have given the soloists more freedom with rubato, but he managed to keep the melodies in motion, which is the most important factor. To finish off the excerpts was the famous Los Toreadors, a selection that capitalized on the strength of the violins to bring out the fast-paced excitement. At the conclusion of the suite, the audience exhibited a strong positive reaction, which was well-deserved. I was a bit disappointed not to hear the Habañera, but the following solo would pick up where the suite left off.

Pablo de Sarasate was a master violinist and composer who produced many showy and technically notorious violin pieces, including the "Carmen Fantasy on Theme of Bizet Op. 25." Serenus Hua '07, last year's MITSO Concerto Competition winner, tackled the piece with gusto. He took the stage with a polite and composed demeanor, bowing deeply and then mentally preparing for his performance. As Hua began to play, he immediately became extremely animated (a la Gil Shaham), with sweeping movements from the upper body and rocking back and forth on his feet, almost as if dancing to the music. These motions were extremely fitting for such a virtuosic piece and were entertaining to watch, although it was visually distracting in some parts where the melody slowed and became soft.

Hua's technical proficiency overshadowed this minor detail though, as he showed off on chord and harmonic runs as well as wild string crossings. In fact, caught up in the spirit of the moment, Hua would rush through many of the challenging passages at an even faster tempo than expected, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats. Anzolini was attentive to the soloist, always making sure to mark time with the fluctuations in tempi. As an experienced per-



MELANIE MILLER

Dante Anzolini directs the MIT Symphony Orchestra in Franz Schubert's "Symphony No. 9" last Friday, Oct. 21 in Kresge Auditorium.

former, Hua did a decent job keeping his nerves under control, as the Carmen Fantasy is enough to make even the most skilled violinist sweat. Ending with a dramatic pose, he received a great ovation from the thrilled audience and looked half-relieved, half-exhilarated. His performance deserved nothing less.

The solo seemed to be the peak of excitement in the concert, as MITSO moved on to more formal repertoire. Schubert's "Symphony No. 9," known as "The Great" symphony, relies more on the classical notions of structure and rhythm and creates its climaxes through grand fanfares from the brass as opposed to whirling passages

from the strings (e.g. Carmen). As before, the intonation was excellent, appropriately capturing progressions of alternating dissonance and harmony. However, as the symphony is a long one, it is quite mentally taxing on the players and their tiredness began to show through toward the end of the second movement, although it picked up a bit again for the finale.

MITSO's first concert of the season was an encouraging start. Hua's showstopper was great for inspiring interest in both orchestra and audience. The orchestra itself delivered the music properly, and with some more passionate playing could become truly remarkable.

CLASSICAL REVIEW

Boston Baroque Presents A Dramatic 'Agrippina'

Musicians Showcase the Psychological Side of Handel

By Jonathan Richmond

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Handel's Agrippina
Boston Baroque
Martin Pearlman, conductor
Jordan Hall, Boston
Oct. 21 and 22

At first, I was aware of the austerity of the sounds coming from Martin Pearlman's Boston Baroque ensemble, which operates in a strictly vibrato free zone according to period instrument performance practice, and then I heard only Handel's music, to which Pearlman's approach has given a power rarely heard.

As Cecilia Bartoli, in town for a Celebrity Series recital on Sunday, told me, the instruments in baroque vocal performances "are singers." Composers such as Handel gave each orchestral voice characterization, and this comes through especially clearly on instruments of the time whose sounds have a more rapid fire and decay and a more distinct identity than those from their modern counterparts. The orchestra from Zurich accompanying Bartoli at her recital had a fuller sound than Pearlman's Boston Baroque band, which he led in performances of Handel's Agrippina on Friday and Saturday nights, but

Despite artificial, overdone staging, Martin Pearlman brings out Handel's fabulous musical drama in Boston Baroque's 'Agrippina.'

Pearlman's sound transmitted pure emotion. After a few minutes, the audience was utterly under its spell, as Pearlman revealed Handel as a master of psychology as much as a composer with an intimate understanding of the human heart and soul.

The oboe was especially revealing in the Boston Baroque performance, but so too were the flutes — the sound from the wooden instruments is cool and penetrating. The trumpets had a heraldic directness, an irresistible voice of fate. Strings were tightly managed and brilliantly played to point at the inner drama of the music rather than at themselves. Clearly they were singing along with the characters on stage, and sharing their multicolored emotions.

If, undoubtedly, Pearlman's extraordinary orchestra was the star of the show, the best singing in this tale of deceit, confusion, and high emotions at the time of the Roman Empire came from Margaret Lattimore, singing the role of the mistreated love-lost Otho. Lattimore brought out the psychological suffering of Otho with singing of openness and beauty; her voice blended especially well with the instrumental ones, which exposed the character's emotions with color painting of great variety as well as sensitivity.

Twyla Robinson, as the machinating Agrippina, had some great dramatic moments as well, while Sari Gruber brought pretty and lively singing to the role of Poppea. Michael Maniaci, singing Nero, showed he is a remarkable male soprano. At the time of composition, roles such as his would have been performed by castrati, and Maniaci gives us an excellent impression of the effect, which is curiously masculine in its power. His vocal instrument is well-controlled and full of character. Kevin Deas as Claudius had his moments, but was not as consistently strong as other members of the cast.

On the downside, the semi-staging by Sam Helfrich proved to be an unwelcome distraction: it was cheap, silly, and out of tune with the music. The pre-performance lecture by Jane Bernstein was read from a script in a most uninvolvement way and lacked any useful insights into the great work being offered.

Overall, however, this was a remarkable evening, one in which Martin Pearlman presented Handel as one of the greatest musical dramatists of history, and did so by revealing the inner message in music whose truth comes from the directness of pure sounds interacting to create a soundstage in the listener's mind. This was a setting of far more vivid and fantastic imagination than could have been produced by any amount of romantic vibrato, and it transcended the misplaced physical movements we saw on stage, which luckily became irrelevant in the face of such musical glories.

CLASSICAL REVIEW

BSO Features Finnish Conductor and Repertoire

Fischer Delivers Heartfelt Rendition of Sibelius Violin Concerto

By Lindy Blackburn and Rosa Cao

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Paavo Berglund, conductor
Julia Fischer, violin
Symphony Hall
Friday, Oct. 21, 1:30 p.m.

Who has time to go to a BSO concert at 1:30 p.m. on a Friday afternoon?

Quite a few people, it turns out: large constituencies of aged retirees, the independently wealthy, and the odd delinquent student together filled a good portion of Symphony Hall at last week's matinee performance of Sibelius' "Violin Concerto" and Shostakovich's "Eighth Symphony," conducted by Paavo Berglund.

Berglund is known for his affinity for Sibelius, a fellow Finn, but the main attraction was soloist Julia Fischer, the acclaimed 23-year-old violinist from Munich, Germany, who endeared herself to the audience with a soulful performance of the composer's well-known and well-loved concerto. Her rendition was clean and firm, with a level of technical perfection suitable for a major competition.

The program notes that "Sibelius opposes rather than meshes solo and orchestra" in this concerto; at her relatively slow tempo, the orchestra had trouble keeping up with Fischer's subtle phrasing and musical tenderness (though they had no qualms about dragging her through periods of their own rhythmic banality). Despite this, Fischer was able to summon a convincing performance, playing with both refinement and musical sophistication.

Fischer's youth and energy contrasted markedly with Berglund's fragile demeanor; the 76-year-old maestro had to be helped on stage by two assistants. Still, conductors (and their ca-

reers) are known for longevity: Toscanini and Klemperer were giving concerts in their 80s, while Haitink and Rostropovich, also in their 70s, are still going strong.

This season's BSO seems to enjoy playing loudly — in the Shostakovich, sometimes deafeningly so. The players might have felt a little repressed after working so hard to be delicate in the Adagio of the Sibelius; accordingly, the Shostakovich was used as therapy. In any case, Berglund received a good return on his investment, at least when measured in orchestral volume per inch of conductor movement.

Shostakovich's symphonies have been described as long and almost unbearably tragic; the Eighth in particular became known as the "Poem of Suffering," an epic on the vision of war at over an hour in length.

The piece builds tension in "foreboding grief" through the long (almost 30 minutes) first movement. Two fast movements follow, typical Shostakovich with strong downbeats and few legatos, a "world of full-blown self-important militarism, seen through the lens of grotesque caricature," according to the program notes. The work climaxes in the fourth movement, Largo, with tremendous sequences that make use of the entire orchestra, cymbals and all. The fifth and final movement, which featured many melancholy solos by the principal musicians — always returning to the same recurring theme — created a welcome melodic change from the constant rhythmic barrage of the previous movements. Many passages showed off the BSO's fine winds and brass.

The symphony was exhausting — as a work about the tragedy of war probably should be. Overcome with the weight of mortality, much of the audience no longer had the energy for the type of rousing ovation that had followed the Sibelius.

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FILM REVIEW ★★★

Once Again 'Saw 2' Makes the Cut

Gruesome Thriller Just in Time for All Hallows' Eve

By Yong-yi Zhu

STAFF WRITER

Saw II

Directed by Darren Lynn Bousman

Written by Darren Lynn Bousman and

Leigh Whannell

Starring Donnie Wahlberg and Tobin Bell

Rated R

Opens Today

From the moment the movie opens, "Saw II" will not only keep you guessing as to what will happen next, but will also force your stomach to turn over many times in the process. This thriller pushes the bounds of macabre to new heights.

Its violence and gore are on par with films like "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and its intensity matches that of tradition slasher films. Jigsaw, the psychopathic killer played by Tobin Bell, is back at his old tricks; he is once again kidnapping innocent people and forcing them to play sick games that he has devised. By putting a final timestamp on people's lives, he thinks he is allowing his victims to contemplate how much life means to them.

Leigh Whannell, one of the writers of "Saw" and the man who played Adam in the original, returns to write the screenplay for the sequel. This movie has much the same flavor of the original, as it uses a parallel storyline structure. There are two puzzles meshed into one story and the success of one group is highly de-

pendent on the success of the other. The main story surrounds Detective Eric Mason (Donnie Wahlberg), as Jigsaw specifically asked for this detective after killing his latest victim. Mason figures out Jigsaw's hideout and brings a SWAT team to capture the suspect. The problem is that Jigsaw, whose real name is John, planned all this from the beginning.

The puzzle is insanely complex and vague. There are eight people trapped in a building that is filled with a poisonous gas slowly being delivered to its inhabitants via the air vents. There are antidotes placed all over the building; the problem is retrieving them in time. The building doors will open in three hours, but the gas will kill everyone within two hours. Each person must find the antidote to survive, unless the police first rescue people from the building. The interesting twist to this plot is that Detective Mason's son is one of the victims.

The plot sounds typical, but it's the acting and the overall intensity of the movie that make it unique. The movie would be nothing without the creepiness of Tobin Bell. He makes you so uncomfortable that you never can trust the man, even though he is dying of cancer and seems as harmless as any old man can be. Combine that with the brashness of Donnie Wahlberg, who is anything but calm and collected. Wahlberg does well to make the situation seem hopeless, simply because of his own desperate outlook.

The costumes and the makeup in the film



LIONS GATE FILMS

The sequel "Saw 2" is a horribly gruesome film just in time for Halloween scares.

force you to be even more uncomfortable as they make the decrepit surroundings look amazingly real. Without them, this would just be an average thriller, but with them, the movie is not only believable, but may also be conducive to nightmares. If you're looking for a film that will keep you guessing and keep you on your toes, this is the one. But be fore-

warned, this movie is not for the weak of heart; it is quite gruesome. The violence and gore are all too real. It also requires quite a bit of knowledge of the first "Saw" because the film builds heavily on the original. But if you have all the pre-requisites, don't hesitate to watch because it will entertain the living daylight out of you.

FILM REVIEW ★★★1/2

Mi Nombre Es Banderas, Antonio Banderas

Using the Superhero Film Formula — Second 'Zorro' Not Quite Legendary

By Sie Hendrata Dharmawan

STAFF WRITER

The Legend of Zorro

Directed by Martin Campbell

Written by Robert Orci and Alan Kurtzman

Starring Antonio Banderas,

Catherine Zeta-Jones

Rated PG

Opens Today

The Legend of Zorro" is the sequel to "The Mask of Zorro" that was released in 1998, featuring pretty much the same actors minus Anthony Hopkins. Consequently, we only get to see one Zorro, instead of two as in the previous movie. The movie adopts the tried-and-true superhero action formula, but tailored specifically to match Zorro's style and atmosphere. As a result, "The Legend of Zorro" is a predictable movie with a predictable ending, but nevertheless enjoyable to watch.

Set in California about 10 years after the first film, this movie again revolves around California's struggle to become the 31st state of the United States.

The timing also coincides with the Civil War that's brewing in the East, which Campbell integrates into the storyline. The plot would be familiar to those of you who watch the James

Bond series. First, establish the premise, showing who the hero is and how he fights. Then comes an innocent guy, but somehow the hero is suspicious of him. This suspicion turns out to be justified because that "innocent" guy is actually planning something evil. Now that all cards are laid out, everyone fights, the hero wins, the villain dies.

As if having the same plot were not enough, the plot elements are reused from the James Bond series as well. The hero is a glamorous rich man (or a man who's funded by a rich government) who creates an evil plan related to weapons, mass destruction, and modern warfare. Of course, modern is a relative term, but let's just say that the villain invents a new weapon that could have changed the outcome of the Civil War. Also, during the fight, the hero always loses first and everyone thinks he dies, when he actually survives and makes a surprise attack on the villain.

But aside from all the likenesses to the Bond flicks, there are also some common superhero plot elements that make the story not just an action movie, but a little bit of a drama

as well. A superhero might decide to renounce his secret life and become a normal citizen, only to jump back into action when a villain appears. This familiar story is what happens to Zorro in this film, where a failing marriage causes him to hang up his mask, only to put it back on when a wicked plan threatens the lives of his wife and son.

Just as a "Spiderman" movie would not be complete without flying-between-the-sky-scrapers scene, a Zorro movie is also not complete without a fighting-on-a-moving-train scene. This scene is particularly reminiscent of the Zorro TV shows in the 1980s and their Nintendo video game renditions. Nevertheless, it is still enjoyable to watch, thanks to the awesome fights that decorate this scene. The sword fights are well choreographed, and the heroes cleverly use external objects (hanging ropes, barrels, random poles that happen to be there) to aid them in the battle. Overall, the fighting scenes flow well and even feel more natural than most superhero action movies that have come out recently.

The acting in the movie is also quite good.

"The Legend of Zorro," though predictable, nonetheless offers sword fights, humor, and breathtaking cinematography.

Catherine Zeta-Jones is obviously the star of the movie, beautiful but dangerous, emotional but sneaky — playing a role that recalls her character in "Entrapment."

Antonio Banderas also performs convincingly, showing some real emotions alongside superb fighting. The appearance of Adrian Alonso, the son of Zorro, was a refreshing addition to the movie. This child had a bigger role than Dakota Fanning had in "War of the Worlds" (her purpose was just to scream and to cry). You will be surprised by how well this boy fights, does acrobatics, and speaks fluent English and Spanish.

This film is also pretty funny to watch, either because the humor is really funny, or because the humor is so bad that you want to laugh at the screenwriter. After a long emotional and intense debate between husband and wife, the punch line was, "You're sleeping outside tonight." Nevertheless, I had a good time laughing.

Visually, the film offers shots of breathtaking California scenery intercut throughout the film, and hero shots of Zorro riding a black horse with a sunset in the background. Though the overall plot is predictable, there are some clever details that make the film fun. So if you have time, go watch Zorro don his mask and slash his way through another action picture.

FILM REVIEW ★★★

'Shopgirl' Not Your Average Chick Flick

Intelligent Film Shows Realistic Story of Life and Love

By Jillian Berry

Shopgirl

Directed by Anand Tucker

Screenplay by Steve Martin

Based on the novella by Steve Martin

Starring Steve Martin, Claire Danes,

Jason Schwartzman

Touchstone Pictures

Rated R

Opened Oct. 21, 2005

In "Shopgirl," Mirabelle Buttersfield (Claire Danes) is a lonely artist and sales clerk in the glove department at Saks Fifth Avenue in Los Angeles. All she wants is someone to notice her. Then, while at the laundromat, she meets Jeremy (Jason Schwartzman), a goofy artist who does stenciling on amplifiers. After much persuasion, he convinces her to go on a date with him. She sees no future with him, but he refuses to believe this. At the same time, Mirabelle is being courted by a wealthy fifty-something named Ray Porter (Steve Martin), whom she met at Saks. He pampers her with expensive gifts and dinners. She is swept off her feet by Ray, even though he refuses to commit to the relationship, and she forgets about Jeremy until he reappears after months on tour with a band. Jeremy has changed for her, and Mirabelle is forced to decide between Jeremy, who has nothing to offer but love, and Ray, who can offer everything but love.

First, I must admit that I thought this movie was going to be a romantic comedy, but I was wrong. "Shopgirl" is a drama about life and romance, and is full of bittersweet challenges and decisions; this certainly is not the typical

chick flick with a happy ending. Claire Danes perfectly portrays Mirabelle as the complex character that she is, with much of the movie focusing on her facial expressions rather than her words. She carries the film, and you cannot help but wish the best for her. I felt her pain as she struggled with the challenges of an imperfect life and understood the choices she made. In addition, Steve Martin and Jason Schwartzman completely disappeared into their characters. They contrasted each other in every way, each exposing the flaws of the other.

One of my favorite aspects of this film was the subtle symbolism throughout. I was particularly intrigued by the 52 stairs to Mirabelle's apartment — they rise and rise, but right before her apartment go down half a flight. They are shown repeatedly in the film (as well as commented upon), and represent Mirabelle's attempt to reach the apex of her dreams, only to be brought down again by reality. I also enjoyed the circular nature of the film, with the same scene of cars on a highway opening and closing the film.

The major fault of the film was the slow pace. Often the story dragged, and even the wonderful music had trouble keeping it going. A little more humor would have increased the pace and lightened this often heavy film. However, the movie as a whole was very good — it intelligently represented the ups and downs of life, and life's inability to lead you to a specific place. Up until the last scene, I was unsure which man she would choose, with neither being the obvious, and perfect, choice. "Shopgirl" is a grown-up movie that shows the pains of real life.



BUENA VISTA PICTURES

Mirabelle (Claire Danes) and Ray (Steve Martin) share an intimate moment in "Shopgirl."

FILM REVIEW ★★

Not Quite 'Prime' Material

Witty Lines and Intimate Insight Get Bugged Down in This Romantic Comedy

By Danbee Kim

Prime

Directed by Ben Younger

Screenplay by Ben Younger

Starring Uma Thurman, Meryl Streep,

Bryan Greenberg

Rated PG-13

Opens Today

It's a love story with the finest smattering of smart, funny lines that could pull laughs from any audience. The acting is superb, and the story is intriguing. But there is a wistful sluggishness to Focus Features' newest movie, "Prime," which just barely falls short of delivering a really memorable movie experience.

Rafi (Uma Thurman) is a 37-year-old career woman living in Manhattan and seeing a therapist about her recent divorce. Dave (Bryan Greenberg) is a talented 23-year-old painter from Brooklyn. Despite the large age gap, the two fall in love. Rafi's therapist Lisa (Meryl Streep) — who is part counselor, part Jewish mother — does her best to guide her patient with ginger care through Rafi's post-divorce slump and urgent awareness of her ticking biological clock. Lisa encourages Rafi's new fling, reasoning that although this relationship may not be the right one for long-term, it would do Rafi some good to have a little fun.

However, Lisa begins to find it hard to listen to details of Rafi's love life after she realizes that the man Rafi has fallen for is really her son, Dave. You can just imagine her comic

reactions to that one. Lisa struggles to maintain a good therapist-patient relationship, but the secret is soon out, and complication after complication swirls around the couple, who are battered by culture clashes, restrained arguments, and an absolute storm of opinions from family and friends.

Uma Thurman delivers a wonderful performance as a career-driven woman with a few intense pet peeves, who nonetheless loves being in love and desperately wants a family of her own. Bryan Greenberg complements her both physically and emotionally on screen, and brings a heartwarming naïve and boyish awkwardness to the character of Dave, who does a lot of growing up and self-discovery through the film. Meryl Streep, as always, gives a brilliant performance on screen, drawing laughs with her comic reactions to her son's love life and delivering lines with quiet power in the more emotional or psychological scenes.

The setup is intriguing enough to bait an audience with both the assumption that Rafi and Dave's relationship is inevitable and the anticipation for what will break loose when the whole truth is out. The story is well written, and there are so many brilliant comic moments, ranging from visually ironic scenes to the perfectly timed one-liners. But while some parts of the movie are a subtle shaping of the story, this subtlety sometimes turns just plain boring in places where the pace slows to a barely decent crawl. In between those moments of comedic brilliance and memorable



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Meryl Streep and Uma Thurman star in "Prime," the latest film from Ben Younger, director of "Boiler Room."

scenes of soft but not too sappy sentimentality, audience members walk away feeling as though they missed half the film. The cinematography does little in an artistic sense; in fact, it's almost too bland to even consider its existence in this film. Very little about this movie stood out as creative, artistic, or even innovative.

That being said, the ending does give au-

diences a twist from the usual endings of romantic comedies. Not only are Rafi and Dave a fantastic on-screen couple, but the blossoming friendship between Rafi and Lisa is another excellent character development and commentary on the many relationships that complete a person's life. However, though "Prime" has moments of glory to bask in, the package as a whole isn't much to get worked up over.

FILM REVIEW ★★

'Protocols' an Eye-Opener to American Anti-Semitism

Jewish Director Challenges Separatist Views

By Yong-yi Zhu

STAFF WRITER

Protocols of Zion

Directed by Marc Levin

Think Film

Not Rated

Opened Oct. 21, 2005

Was there a major Jewish plot to bomb the twin towers on September 11? Were there thousands of Jews who did not die because they were warned not to go to work that day? Is there really a conspiracy by the Jews that began at the start of the twentieth century that foretells their rise to world domination?

These are the questions that director Marc Levin sought to discredit in his documentary, "Protocols of Zion." In a series of vignettes that focus primarily on anti-Semitism and the overarching problem of the distrust of Jews in America, Levin presents a collage of the extremists who believe in the "Protocols" and some of the reasons they might adopt such a radical philosophy.

"The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion" is a piece of apocrypha, supposedly documenting a plot by the Jews to take over the world. It lists a series of protocols, consisting of ways the Jews are superior to other people and how they might take advantage of this power. All of the protocols are outrageous in their message, and most reasonable people would not believe them. It is said that this book was written at the turn of the century by a group of Zionist elders. However, the truth is that the "Protocols" were written by anti-Semites who wanted to use this book to create an anti-Jew movement. Hitler, for example, used the "Protocols" during World War II to implicate the Jews in all of their purported wrongdoings.

For this movie, the director obtained a wide-ranging sample of believers, from the most steadfast of separatists to the more moderate. Take for example the National Alliance, an organization that cultivates separatist beliefs. Levin traveled to West Virginia to interview the leader of that organization. He discovered that the group sells all sorts of Nazi materials, from the "Protocols" to Swastika flags. In fact, the leader admitted to having gone to Auschwitz and purchased beer there, adding that the camp is now more of a tourist site than a memorial. This simple incident shows the lack of respect some people have, even today, for the

Holocaust and the millions that died in the tragedy.

When Levin went to a street corner in New York and asked several African Americans about their views on the September 11 tragedies, he received shocking responses. One person proclaimed that of course the Jews knew about it beforehand. In fact, he said that the whole world is being run by Jews and we needn't look further than Pepsi cans for the evidence. To him and many others, Pepsi is a conspiracy that stands for "Pay Every Penny to Save Israel." Outrageous as it may sound, there are many who believe in this. Perhaps ignorance among these people

is propagated by the lack of genuine information available.

In fact, according to Levin, even the Jews in Hollywood are hesitant to discuss the issues of their religion. Before the release of "The Passion of the Christ," he called up Larry David and Rob Schneider, two prominent Jews in show business, to set up a lunch with them and discuss how the movie portrays and deals with the themes of Judaism. Neither of them were willing to partake in this discussion. It was almost as though they were afraid to publicize their views, choosing instead to hide their religious beliefs. Without public exposure, the problem remains concealed and

In his documentary "Protocols of Zion," Marc Levin raises awareness of anti-Semitism in today's world.

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<http://ems.mit.edu>



ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

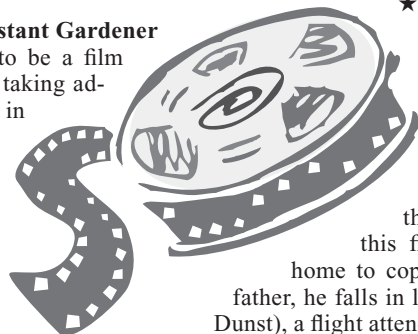
★★★★: Excellent
 ★★★: Good
 ★★: Average
 ★: Poor

★★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)

★★★★ **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)

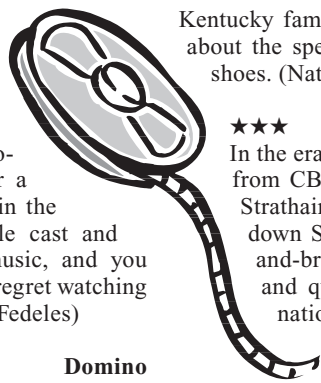


★★★★½ **Corpse Bride**
 Tim Burton's latest feature is a dark-hued romantic fantasy, which combines an unconventional story with subtle satire and unusual cinematographic techniques to deliver a truly delectable treat. Factor in the vocal talents of a remarkable cast and Danny Elfman's sparkling music, 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 **Doom**
 This film, starring The Rock as a space marine, was made primarily for fans of the "Doom" computer games, leaving everyone else to suffer through what is essentially a mindless action flick. Fans probably won't be bothered that the movie has no plot, but anyone else should give it a miss. (Andrew Guerra)

★★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



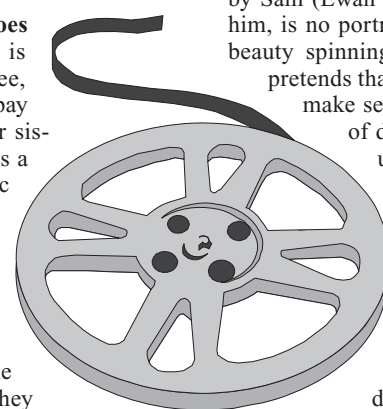
Kentucky family, and addresses his feelings about the spectacular failure of his line of shoes. (Natania Antler)

★★★ **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, how-



ever, 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)

★★★ **Stay**
 This portrayal of mental illness, experienced by Sam (Ewan McGregor) and those around him, is no portrayal at all, but simply visual beauty spinning out of control. The movie pretends that it has a story to tell that will make sense, but in the end it is made of disorientation, about the mind unsheathed and unprotected, highlighting the fragility of sanity and interpretation. (Rosa Cao)

★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

Winter - Spring 2005

iCampus Call For Student Proposals

iCampus has awarded almost \$2M to student projects in the past five years. iCampus student projects are ambitious, innovative efforts **designed and carried out by MIT graduate and undergraduate students** that demonstrate:

- the use of information technology to enhance MIT education,
- the desire to improve the quality of MIT student life,
- the desire to make an impact on the world at large.

Deadline for proposal submission is **NOVEMBER 15, 2005**.
 For more information, please visit the iCampus website:

<http://icampus.mit.edu>.



October 28,
2005

COMICS

The
Tech

FUN

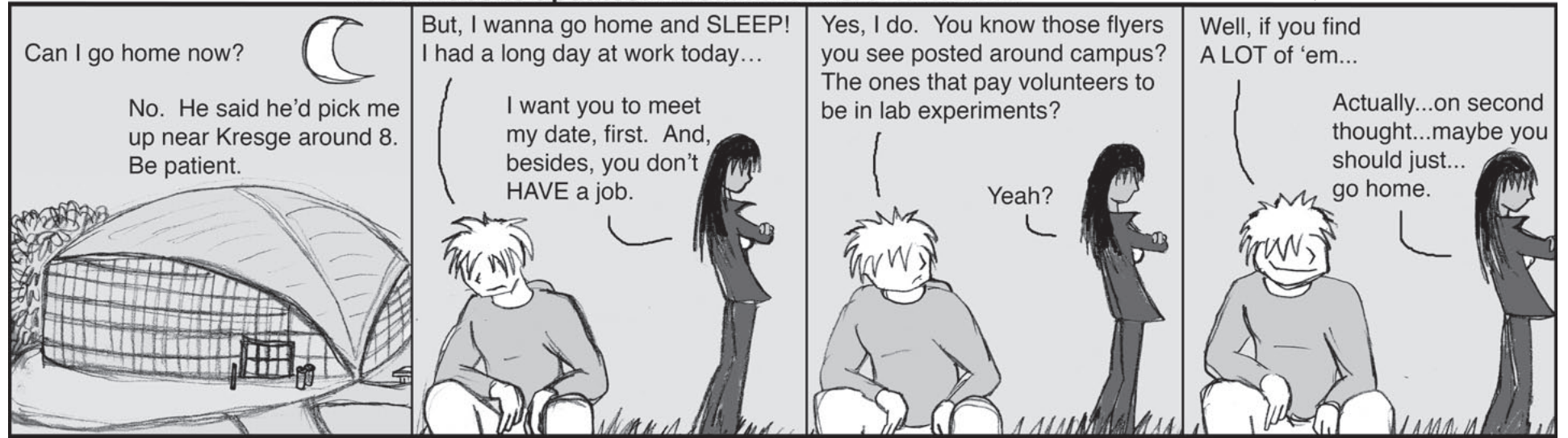
Page
9

PAGES

Trio

TRIO website updates: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



DEVIANTS FROM THE NORM

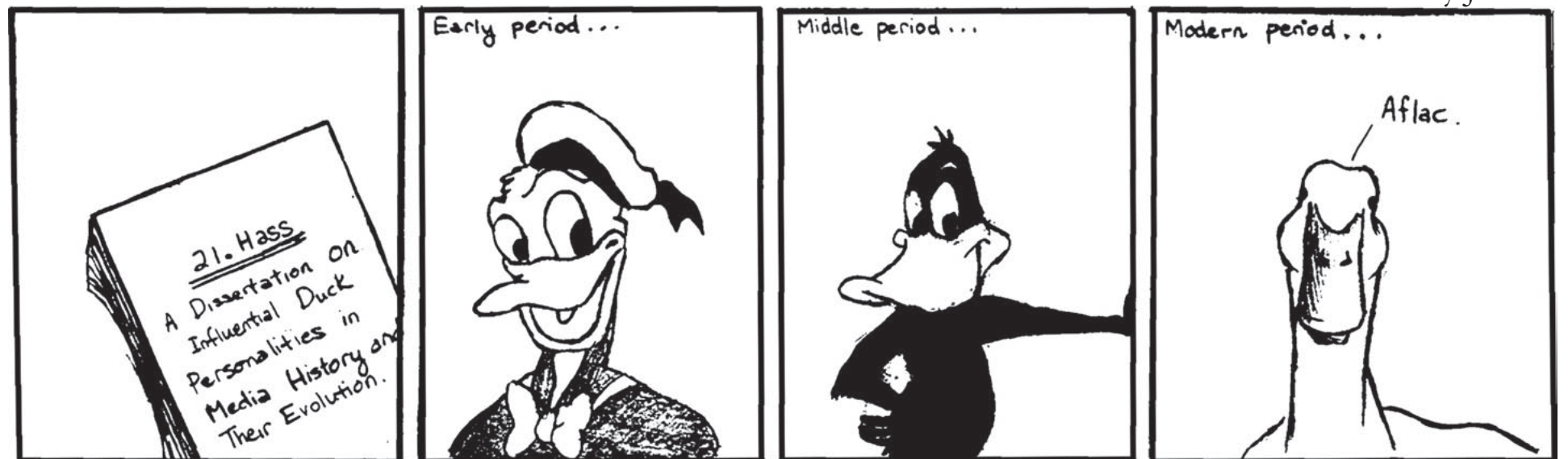
by A.K. Turza



[031] THOSE STICKERS SHOW UP IN THE ODDEST PLACES

More Cowbell

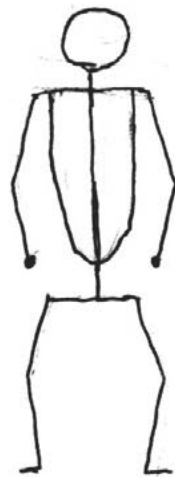
by Jia Lou



FVCKED

i did course xiii...

by Colin Dillard
so i guess all i got...



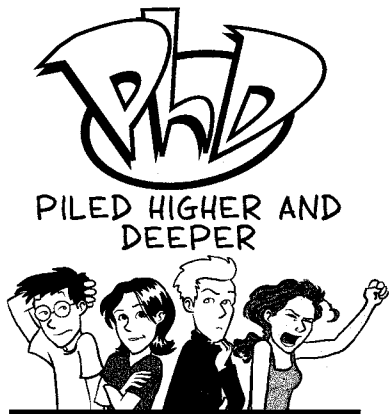
but my diploma
won't say that.

is this cool t-shirt.

© 2005

Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta



What Does Current Scientific Research Have to Say About the Present and Future Risks Associated With Hurricanes?

Professor Kerry Emanuel
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences

Monday, October 31, 2005
12:00 noon

Bartos Theatre
Wiesner Building (E15)

For information on the symposia series:
<http://web.mit.edu/katrina/symposia/>



ONE SCREW LOOSE

by Josie Sung



su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: 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 14.

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



Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 13

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

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After W20 Renovation Attempt, Total Office Space Unchanged

ASA, from Page 1

the application is designed to get as much information as possible from groups, Shaw said.

The office space designated for student activities is under the supervision of the Office of the Dean for Student Life but is assigned to the ASA with the understanding that the space be reallocated with "some regularity," said Director of Campus Activities Complex Phillip J. Walsh. He said that the CAC works with the ASA in terms of the physical condition of the offices but is not involved with the ASA's policies on how often they review space or the criteria by which they assign offices.

Two factors that contributed to the cancellation of the 2003 alloca-

tions were miscommunication between the ASA and the CAC, and Student Center renovations that were planned but never carried through. In the fall of 2004, the ASA attributed its delays to renovations needed to create more student space, though Shaw said that the ASA currently has the same amount of space to allocate as it did four years ago.

Applications to be made public

Once the ASA receives space requests from student groups, they will assign the groups to different categories based on priority and whether or not the group currently has an office, Shaw said. Requests from groups that currently have office space are considered separately from requests by groups that do not have an office.

Shaw said that it is unlikely that subsets of these categories, such as groups without offices who had requested office space in the fall 2003 allocations, will receive special consideration. However, he said that those groups will likely have "good

applications" because of their previous experience.

Groups that currently have office space are prioritized into the following categories: groups that will retain their current office or may gain space; groups that may lose some of their space, gain roommates, or change offices; and groups that will lose their office space. Groups that do not have space are divided into three categories based on priority.

Following prioritization but before final allocations are given, groups may appeal the ASA's decision.

This year, groups' applications will be made publicly available after appeals are completed, though the ASA operating guidelines do not specifically address the publication of responses, Shaw said. "It adds a degree of transparency to the whole process," he said.

Shaw said that office space moves will happen in January, and that he expects the ASA to give out allocations in December before finals week.

Open to MIT sophomores and juniors
Application deadline: Wednesday, February 8, 2006
For more info contact artsfellowship@mit.edu
Or go online: web.mit.edu/arts/special_programs

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge and/or MIT Police between Oct. 19 and Oct. 25. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, medical shuttles, or isolated incidents of theft.

Oct. 19: MIT Police Department (120 Mass. Ave.), fraud and identity theft reported (incident occurred Feb. 1).

Oct. 20: 77 Mass. Ave., 4 p.m., pedestrian struck by two or more bicyclists; Cambridge Police, MIT Police, and Cambridge Fire Dept. emergency medical service dispatched; victim transported by ambulance to Cambridge Hospital.

Oct. 22: Student Center (84 Mass. Ave.), 5:00 p.m., bicycle stolen from rack.

Oct. 25: Walker Memorial (142 Memorial Dr.), 10:30 p.m., suspicious person reported in basement; trespass order issued.

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

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UPCOMING LECTURE

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Industry Relations:

Getting Perspective

When: Thursday, November 3, 2005

Where: BOSTON UNIVERSITY
The Castle
225 Bay State Rd.

Who's Speaking: Steven Shapin,
Harvard University

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National Executive Director,
Childreach
with a sponsored child in Tarjija, Bolivia.

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Warwick, RI
02886-1099

Retraction of Research Should Not Undermine Field

Van Parijs, from Page 1

over the 14-month period."

Van Parijs admitted to fabricating and falsifying research data in a paper and several manuscripts and grant applications over the course of the investigation, according to an MIT press release.

Because part of Van Parijs' funding came from the federal government, the U.S. Office of Research Integrity will also conduct a confidential investigation, Gast said. The Office of Research Integrity in the Department of Health and Human Services was created in 1989 to investigate scientific fraud.

While the physics community was rocked in 2002 by the revelation that Bell Labs star physicist Jan Hendrik Schön had falsified data on which many others had subsequently based their research, it seems unlikely that this incident will have the same effects.

"The field is quite a vibrant field with many excellent people doing outstanding work," Gast said. She said she did not think it would significantly impact the field of RNAi research.

Peter Sandy, a postdoctoral associate who spent a year working with Van Parijs, also doubted the broader impact of Van Parijs' actions. "I don't think that it will af-

fect the field because there are a lot of great publications," he said, and "most of the things they published I think are true."

Regarding his own work, he said his research will be unaffected, as he no longer works on the same projects as he did while in Van Parijs' laboratory.

Michael McManus, a University of California San Francisco profes-

sor who formerly worked in Van Parijs' laboratory, also said that the incident "doesn't really affect my work."

Gast said that Van Parijs' former graduate students "have been able to carry on their research with new advisors and new projects." MIT has "done the best we can to take care of their futures," she said.

In recent years, many have called

into question the competitive "publish-or-perish" environment that can drive scientific research. Nicholas Steneck, University of Michigan professor of history and a consultant for the ORI, reported in 2000 that while one in 100,000 researchers had been involved in misconduct cases, reported knowledge of misconduct is higher than one percent.

Gast said she said that she knew

of no similar conduct by other individuals or environment that would lead to such conduct at MIT. "It's an isolated individual behavior," she said. "I don't think it's endemic or systemic." Nonetheless, the case "may serve as an important lesson" that "integrity is extremely important to scientific research," she said.

Beckett W. Sterner contributed to the reporting of this story.

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"Measuring and Controlling Near Wall Turbulence"

Professor Pavlos P. Vlachos

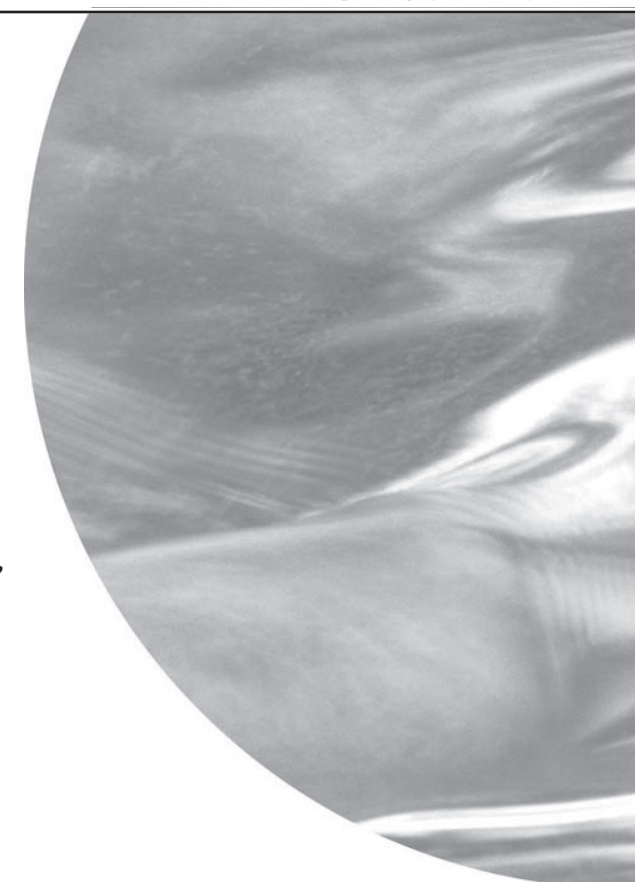
Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences, Virginia Tech

MIT Faculty Club, E52, Sixth Floor

3-4 pm, Friday, October 28, 2005

Reception Immediately Following

For an abstract and information about the speaker, see <<http://oe.mit.edu/TFO>>.



Solution to Crossword
from page 11

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

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

Free for MIT students

Collage New Music
Monday October 31, 2005 at 8:00pm
Edward M. Pickman Hall, Longy School of Music
27 Garden Street, Cambridge

Elliott Gyger, *si doux* (1997)
Curtis Hughes, *National Insecurity* (2002)
Andrew Imbrie, *Dandelion Wine* (1970)
HK Gruber, *Frankenstein!!* (1979)

No tickets are required for Collage New Music
Concerts: simply present your MIT student ID at the box office on the night of the performance

Boston Modern Orchestra Project
Friday, November 4, 2005 at 8:00pm
(7:00pm: Program Notes, hosted by Evan Ziporyn)
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

Louis Andriessen: *Trilogy of the Last Day* (1997)
Evan Ziporyn: *The Ornate Zither and the Nomad Flute* (2005)
Julia Wolfe: *The Vermeer Room* (1989)

TICKETS AVAILABLE
at the MIT Office of the Arts: E15-205
M-F from 10am - 4pm
One ticket per valid MIT student ID

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Come hear Mark Jen (best known for being terminated for cause by Google, Inc. for the distribution of corporate secrets in his personal blog)

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.


Plaxo is recruiting! Come and meet Mark and schedule 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
Who: Harvard & MIT Engineering graduates June 2006 & Alumni
When: Monday November 7th, 2005, 7-9pm.
How: RSVP to Stuart Liroff, Sr. Director of Human Resources, 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) or write to Stuart directly.

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Solution to Sudoku

from page 11

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

Ask SIPB

Wishing MIT provided more software and services for your personal computer? Need to use software on Athena at home? This week, we introduce some lesser known computing services supported by MIT.

Question: Does MIT provide Windows XP Professional?
Answer: Yes, MIT provides it for undergraduates, staff, and faculty (but not for graduate students) through the Microsoft Campus Agreement at MIT. You can download an ISO or ZIP of the installer from <http://msca.mit.edu> (make sure you have MIT certificates first); if you are an undergraduate, you must install it within five days. If that deadline passes, you can download it once more; however, you still can only install it on one machine. You will also receive an e-mail containing license information after downloading. IS&T maintains a web page with more information at <http://web.mit.edu/ist/services/software/msca.html>.

Question: If you are a graduate student, Windows is provided on a department-by-department basis. In particular, Courses 6 and 15 are known to provide Windows for their graduate students. You should contact your departmental liaison, listed at <http://web.mit.edu/ist/services/software/msca-osliai-sons.html>.

Question: What happens when I graduate?
Answer: If you graduate, your license will be converted to a perpetual use license. You'll receive an advisory e-mail in your last semester if you are a graduating senior. If you stop being a student for some other reason, your license expires and you can no longer use the software.

Question: I want to be able to use software provided on Athena on my home computer. Must I install Athena?
Answer: You can, but you don't have to. MIT provides support for other Linux systems. In particular, there is full support for Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 4, the Linux distribution upon which Athena Linux is based.

<http://web.mit.edu/ist/topics/linux/> contains more information about RHEL and Linux in general. It is also possible to install Kerberos, OpenAFS, Zephyr, and other Athena services on other Linux distributions; a SIPB tutorial for doing so on Debian and Ubuntu is at <http://www.mit.edu/afs/sipb/project/debian-athena/www/>. We'll be writing more about various Linux distributions in our next Ask SIPB column.

Question: Why should I keep my computer up-to-date?
Answer: Security vulnerabilities in software are discovered on a daily basis. Any computer connected to the Internet is subjected to random attacks that attempt to exploit these vulnerabilities. Security patches become available when software vendors fix the vulnerabilities, so updating is necessary to keep secure from known attacks.

Question: How can I keep my Windows system up-to-date?
Answer: Microsoft provides automatic updates for Windows XP. MIT has a Windows Automatic Update Service which focuses on critical security patches and patches which have been tested and shown to be particularly stable. It uses Windows XP's built-in Automatic Update service, and you can select either to download and install updates automatically, or to download automatically and notify the user to install. Visit <http://web.mit.edu/ist/topics/windows/updates/> for more information.

Question: How can I keep my Linux system up-to-date?
Answer: Red Hat provides a Red Hat Network service that provides updates for Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems. MIT IS&T offers this service for free. See <http://web.mit.edu/ist/topics/linux/rhn.html> to register for it and for more information. We'll be writing more about other Linux distributions next month; most provide their own security updates.

Question: What is Student Matlab?
Answer: If you are a student, you can obtain Matlab for your Macintosh or Windows computer from <http://matlab.mit.edu>.

Question: The license agreement that MIT has with MathWorks requires that your computer be connected to the Internet whenever you are using Matlab, so that your copy remains in contact with the MIT license server. If you lose your connection, you have about 15 minutes to reconnect before Matlab terminates. Because there are a finite number of licenses, it is courteous to quit Matlab when you are not using it.

If you are connecting from off-campus (not including FSILGs), you'll need to use MIT's Virtual Private Network (VPN) service for Matlab to work; see the last question.

Question: Is Matlab available for Linux?
Answer: There is no Matlab installer, but you can access the Athena installation if you have OpenAFS. Since there are some subtle but important differences, we recommend you consult IS&T's advice at <http://web.mit.edu/acs/www/tips.html#Running>.

Question: What is a VPN and why would I use it?
Answer: ISPs will often set up port filtering and other things for network security purposes. (Incidentally, MIT does not.) Unfortunately, this can lead to problems running some applications that use the network, such as Student Matlab. A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps you use MIT computing services, effectively putting your computer on MITnet even when your connectivity is provided by some other ISP, and thus bypassing the blocks that interfere with applications. You can enable the VPN when you need it and disable it when you don't.

You only need the VPN if you are connecting from off-campus; dormitory and FSILG residents are already on MITnet. The MIT VPN Client is available for Linux, Macintosh, and Windows. You can download the VPN software from <http://web.mit.edu/ist/services/network/vpn.html>. Be sure to read the "Known Issues at MIT" page for your platform.

To ask us a question, send e-mail to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer you quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our Web site: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>.

Call SIPB with questions at x3-7788, or drop by our office in W20-557!

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Volleyball Looks Ahead to End Of Season Coast Guard Match

Volleyball, from Page 16

lowing Smith to recover defensively with a full offensive sequence.

Tech extended its lead to 19-13 before Reynolds' second trip to the service line put the contest out of reach. With a match-high fourth ace, Reynolds put the Engineers up 24-13

en route to a 30-19 victory. Zimmerman finished the match with 36 assists as the Engineers hit 0.248 as a team. Jordan and Stephenson each tallied 11 kills, with Jordan needing only 26 swings to record her match-high 0.385 killing performance.

Saturday, the Engineers will close the regular season and host Coast

Guard (21-3, 7-1 NEWMAC) at 1 p.m. in Rockwell Cage. Last year's meeting at Coast Guard was a marathon match of two unbeaten teams, with the Engineers losing in five games after having held a 2-0 lead. Earlier this season, Tech swept Coast Guard in the championship match of the MIT Invitational.



DMITRY KASHLEV—THE TECH

Briana J. Stephenson '07 (#12) and Alexandra N. Huston-Carico '08 (#6) combine their blocking power during the MIT Women's Volleyball team's 3-0 defeat of Smith College this past Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Expect Panthers, Pats Raiders, Bucs to Win

NFL, from Page 16

Orton.

Browns at Texans: The bettors are actually billing the Texans as the favorites in this game. I highly doubt that will be the result. The Browns did not have a good performance against the Lions, but QB Trent Dilfer is at least an experienced quarterback. Besides, they can always rely on RB Reuben Droughns.

Packers at Bengals: This one could end up being a lot closer than it appears on paper. After losing a big game like last week, the Packers will be more disciplined. They will stick to the running game and be as physical as they can with the Bengals. I would take the Packers to lose by less than a touchdown.

Jaguars at Rams: St. Louis needs to run the ball because QB Jamie Martin will not get it going against the Jaguar secondary. However, establishing the run will be tough, as Marcus Stroud and John Henderson are a major force in the middle of the Jaguars' line. The bettors are giving the Rams a field goal, I think the Jags are going to win by more than that.

Vikings at Panthers: The Vikings pulled out a miracle last week. Daunte Culpepper finally showed

some poise in putting together a game winning drive. The Panthers won't give them the chance to do that this week. The Panthers are going to win by a touchdown or more.

Dolphins at Saints: The Saints have been inconsistent. They could not stop the run last week, and they won't stop the Dolphin running backs this week. Miami will win this game because the Saints have a horrible rush defense.

Ravens at Steelers: This should be a bigger defensive showdown than people might expect. The Ravens will lose, but they will keep the Steelers closer than Pittsburgh would like. I don't expect this to be more than a one score game.

Buccaneers at 49ers: Last week, a good defense and a decent offense killed the 49ers. This week will be a little better, but the end result should still be the same. Take the Bucs and give the points in this game.

Raiders at Titans: No QB Steve McNair, no win for the Titans against the Raiders. I know Titans QB Volek is a good passer. He's just not a good field general.

Bills at Patriots: The Patriots finally begin the easier part of their schedule. They are well rested and should defeat the Bills by two touchdowns.

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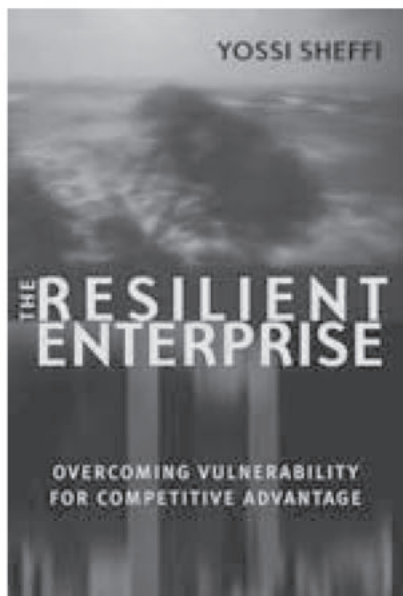
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—George Anders, *The Wall Street Journal*

Yossi Sheffi is Professor of Engineering Systems at MIT and Director of the MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics.

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SPORTS

Women's Volleyball Bests Smith As Reynolds Sets MIT Records

By Charles Morton
ASSISTANT COACH

Arlis A. Reynolds '06 added to her collection of record-breaking performances to keep MIT perfect in NEWMAC play with a 3-0 (30-19, 30-13, 30-19) rout of Smith College Tuesday night in Rockwell Cage. The victory set up a Saturday home showdown against Coast Guard with the winner (for the second straight year) clinching the regular season championship and the privilege of hosting the conference tournament.

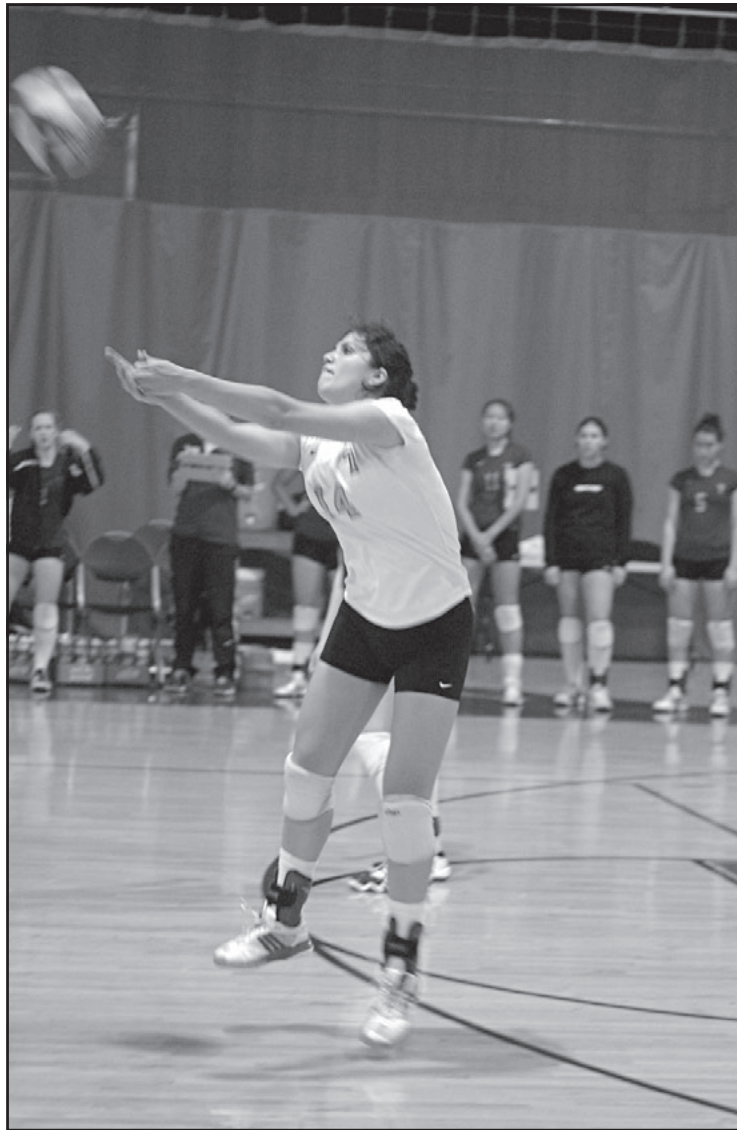
Reynolds, whose 29 digs helped the Engineers hold the Lyons to a team hitting performance of just 0.014, eclipsed an 11-year-old mark for digs in a three-game match previously held by Pareen Dhalla '95. Offensively, Caroline D. Jordan '06, Frances M. Rogoz '07, and Briana J. Stephenson '07 each registered double figures in kills as the Engineers needed just over an hour to register one of their most consistent and convincing victories of the season.

For the second time in the 2005 campaign, MIT (26-7, 8-0 NEWMAC) recovered from a weekend upset to soundly defeat a conference opponent. Held to a team hitting performance of just 0.029 in Saturday's contest at Smith, the Engineers looked to be in danger of repeating that season-low performance in the opening game, staking the Lyons (19-6, 5-3 NEWMAC) to a 3-0 lead on a pair of hitting errors.

Despite recovering to take a 4-3 lead on Lindsay Hunting's serve, the Engineers had not yet secured the momentum, allowing Smith to maintain a three-point cushion for several rotations until Jordan knotted the score at 17-17 by disrupting the Smith offense with a series of deep float serves (the unpredictable float serve is volleyball's equivalent of the knuckleball). Austin Zimmerman '06 continued the service line attack with a seven-point run, as Rose Zhong '08 and Stephenson combined to convert four free ball opportunities into points to open up a 25-18 Tech lead.

The Lyons, nonplussed by the dramatic momentum shift from Saturday's match, mustered only one more point in the opening frame, and Reynolds closed out a 30-19 game win with a five-point service run. The Engineers finished the first game with 22 scores through kills after having only found the floor 35 times in Saturday's entire match.

Jordan's service rotation proved



DMITRY KASHLEV—THE TECH

Team co-captain Arlis A. Reynolds '06 successfully bumps the ball to a teammate in a game this past Tuesday, Oct. 25. The MIT Women's Volleyball team defeated Smith College three games to zero.

to be a turning point in the second game as well, when her three-point run opened up a 7-4 Tech lead thanks to kills from Stephenson and Zhong. The Engineers beat Smith at their own game, out-digging the conference's leading defensive side by a significant margin to extend the lead in several long rallies. Later, Jordan turned a 17-10 margin into a 25-10 rout, during which Smith tried in vain to adjust their serve receive formation. Appropriately, Reynolds closed the second set with an ace. The 30-13 game margin was Smith's most lopsided defeat of the 2005 campaign.

The Engineers continued the rout in the third game, with Reynolds collecting 12 digs and Rogoz blasting six of her match-high 13 kills without an error. Reynolds turned a 7-7 tie into an 11-7 advantage during her

first trip to the service line, thanks to a service ace and a clever kill from Zimmerman, who turned a courageous defensive sequence from the Lyons into a heartbreaking defeat with a first-touch set deep into the Smith backcourt.

When Smith libero Megumi Sasaki's errant touch on a Rogoz blast looked to be a sure kill, NEWMAC dig leader Kate M. Sorensen '08 pursued the ball beyond midcourt, evading the second official and nearly colliding with MIT head coach Paul Dill to return the ball to their side of the net. On the ensuing free ball, Zimmerman recognized the disarray in the Smith defense and spoiled the Lyons' efforts by sending her shot within inches of the endline rather than al-

Volleyball, Page 15



DMITRY KASHLEV—THE TECH

Team captains Austin Zimmerman '06 (#4, center) and Arlis A. Reynolds '06 (#14) rush to reach the ball during the MIT Women's Volleyball team's 3-0 defeat of Smith College this past Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Rifle Team Defeats Mass Maritime

The MIT rifle team continued its best start since 1995 after traveling to Buzzards Bay last weekend and sweeping its fourth consecutive shoulder-to-shoulder match. Defeating Mass Maritime in both guns, the smallbore unit posted its highest score of the season to pace the win (2167).

Sports Shorts

Personal records abounded in the victory as new shooting highs were recorded by sophomore Jonathan S. Burnham '08 in both guns; Jake G. Latham '09 in air; Wesley McKinney '07 in smallbore; junior Nathan A. Pfaff '07 in smallbore; and Anton Katz '07 in both guns. Katz was the high shooter of the match, winning both events.

Women's Tennis

For the second year in a row, Wellesley College defeated MIT in the NEWMAC Women's Tennis Championship. Wellesley posted a 5-1 win over the Engineers for the team title one day after Tech advanced to the finals with a 5-1 victory over Babson College in the semifinals.

Last week, MIT finished 6th out of 22 teams at the New England Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament (NEWITT) with three individuals making it to at least the semifinals for the first time in school history. Senior Jill L. Konowich '06 lost in the semifinals at No. 5 singles, while the No. 1 doubles team of Serena Y. Lin '08 and Mariah N. Hoover '08 became the first MIT tandem to ever advance to the finals of a NEWITT Championship. Hoover also advanced to the semifinals at No. 4 singles.

Women's Volleyball

Arlis A. Reynolds '06 set three MIT records en route to All-Tournament honors at the Women's Volleyball Hall of Fame Tournament in Northampton, Mass. During the second game of a three-game sweep over Bates, Reynolds broke the school mark for digs in a season (Barbara J.S. Schultze '02). In a loss against Springfield, Reynolds collected 34 digs for her fifth 30-plus dig performance of the season. In addition, she broke the career record for digs (1,804) which was also set by Schultze. Reynolds also reset the mark for digs in a four-game match after establishing the previous record of 31 on Sept. 23 against Williams College. Reynolds has been named to the All-Tournament team three times this season.

—Written by the DAPER Press Office

In a Sunday Showdown Of Two Top AFC Teams, Expect a Chargers Win

By Yong-yi Zhu
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Here's what to expect on Sunday in the NFL:

Game of the Week: Chiefs at Chargers

What a game this will be. It pits two of the best teams in the AFC against one another. The Chiefs' defense will not hold back Chargers RB LaDanian Tomlinson, and he will continue his romp of defenses. On the other hand, the Chiefs running game will be pretty powerful as well. I would take the Chargers because they know they need to get on track to make the playoffs.

Upset Special: Eagles at Broncos

The Eagles limited LaDanian Tomlinson to just seven yards for the entire game last week. They will need to contain the Broncos rushing game to win this week. I see them doing more than that: they will go back to the ground game and also give the Chargers a big dose of WR Terrel

Owens. The Broncos want victory after their last minute collapse to the Giants this week, but this NFC East opponent is just too tough.

The Rundown:

Redskins at Giants: The difference in this game will be Giants' QB Eli Manning's poise. He has grown right before our eyes and is now ready to take the Giants back to the playoffs.

Cardinals at Cowboys: The Cowboys will rebound from the tough loss to Seattle last week and beat up on the Cardinals. Arizona took advantage of a Steve McNair-less Tennessee team, but this week, the Cowboys will not be so easy to push over.

Bears at Lions: The Lions have a much better shot now that Jeff Garcia is their quarterback. With him at the helm and the core of receivers that the Lions have, they can go on a real playoff run. The Bears have a good passing defense, but an even better run defense. I see the Lions winning this one, simply because Garcia is just a better quarterback than Kyle

NFL, Page 15

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005

Varsity Rifle vs. Mass. Maritime, Navy, Wentworth
MIT Rifle Range, 8:00 a.m.

Varsity Sailing — Erwin Schell Trophy
Charles River, 9:00 a.m.

Varsity Sailing — Women's Victorian Coffee Urn
Charles River, 9:30 a.m.

Varsity Women's Volleyball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Rockwell Cage, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 30, 2005

Varsity Sailing — Erwin Schell Trophy
Charles River, 9:00 a.m.