**CLC Issues Warning to Simmons for Party**

**By Kelley Rivoire**

The Cambridge License Commission issued a warning last Friday to Simmons Hall for an unregistered party held last October that involved underage drinking.

The warning requires Simmons to work with the Campus Alcohol Advisory Board and to lead an initiative to create a social host training program for Simmons and other dormitories, said Simmons President David A. Nedzel ’07. The ruling also mandates that underage Simmons residents not consume alcohol in the building and that Simmons report to the CLC in six months on their progress, Nedzel said.

Daniel Trujillo, associate dean for community development and substance abuse programs, said that he believes the decision by the CLC was “one of the best outcomes you can have” and reflected the efforts of Simmons to “make sure the entire community was aware of how to prevent this in the future. That’s what the CLC wants,” he said.

The CLC could have revoked Simmons’ housing license.

Simmons to lead training program

Social host training is currently only available for members of fraternities, Trujillo said. Nedzel said that the new social host training program will be developed by considering which aspects of the fraternity training are applicable to dormitories and which additional components might be useful.

By developing a training program for dormitories similar to that of fraternities, Simmons can “provide something that’s valuable,” Trujillo said.

The training program will be implemented no later than next fall, Nedzel said.

Some component of the program Simmons creates might be used during an orientation for freshmen who move into the dormitory this fall, he said.

As part of the charge to become involved with the CAAB, Simmons Chairman Andrew T. Lukmann ’07 said he would appoint a resident to attend CAAB meetings.

The CAAB, a coalition between MIT and the City of Cambridge, deals with alcohol issues both on and off campus, Trujillo said. One focus of the CAAB is to educate students about the process for event registration and to encourage students to register parties, he said.

Regarding the component of the CLC decision forbidding underage students from consuming alcohol, Lukmann said that he does not know whether Simmons will institute any changes to its current policies.

“I don’t think anyone has the interest of becoming a police force for the dorm,” Lukmann said. He suggested that graduate resident tutors might take a stronger role in addressing the issue “so that people can keep a better eye out.”

Nedzel said that the Simmons government is still in the early planning stages regarding the stipulations made by the CLC, and he expects Simmons will work with the Dormitory Council in developing the program.

The details of the CLC warning will be discussed by Simmons officers at a leadership seminar this weekend, Lukmann said.

Simmons making progress

Simmons residents have become more educated about party registration and underage drinking since the incident in October. “I think the CLC has made residents much more aware of the seriousness of underage drinking,” Nedzel said.

The CLC decision reflects the understanding that Simmons has taken positive steps following the party, including holding mandatory community forums, Nedzel said.

“It’s important for Cambridge to remind the Simmons community of the standards of not only MIT, but the city around us,” Lukmann said.

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**Colleges, Boston Police Discuss Students’ Safety**

**By Marissa Vogt**

Student leaders and administrators from Boston area colleges met with the Boston Police Department last night to discuss the Operation Student Shield initiative launched in early January.

The initiative is a partnership between the Boston Police and college administrators with the idea of improving on and off-campus safety by increasing communication between the groups.

Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O’Toole said that the department is trying to get involved in college housing fairs, orientations, and student meetings to promote safety and improve student quality of life. Each institution has identified a liaison with the Boston Police within its administration, she said, and some administrators are participating in “ride-alongs” where they assist the police in responding to complaints.

The Cambridge License Commission recently issued a warning to Simmons regarding an unregistered party involving underage drinking.

The training program will be discussed by Simmons officers at a leadership seminar this weekend, Lukmann said.

Simmons making progress

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**World & Nation**

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**Opinion**

- 4

**Sports**

- 20
Regional residents have been known to speak an Al-Sayyid sign language, which they use in a village of some 3,500 people in the Negev Desert of Israel. They are descendants of a single founder, who arrived 200 years ago from Egypt and married a local woman. Two of the couple’s five sons were deaf, as are about 150 members of the community today. They are known to geneticists, but only now have linguists studied its sign language. A team led by Dr. S. Green also declared unconstitutional the tribunal that the military established over the summer to review the detentions in the hope of satisfying the Supreme Court ruling. In addition, she questioned whether the information used against the detainees had been obtained by torture and was thus unreliable, the first time that prob-
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cretion of the president in his consti-
tutional role as commander in chief. But over the last few years, some federal courts have rejected that sweeping assertion.

**Federal Judge Extends Rights For Detainees at Guantanamo**

By Neil A. Lewis

A federal judge ruled against the Bush administration Monday, declaring that detainees at Guan-
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The big questions left hanging in


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Fears Lead US to Plan Expansion in Radioactive Material Tracking

By Eric Lipton

The federal government has been quietly expanding efforts to monitor the nation's containers of radioactive material, which officials say could contain 200,000 to 300,000 weapons-grade fissile material. The government has invested about $1 billion in such programs over the past five years, and officials expect the cost of monitoring to rise sharply in the coming years.

The government plans to expand its monitoring efforts by hiring 400 additional staff members, using new technologies, and working more closely with private companies. Officials hope to have the expanded monitoring program in place by the end of this year.

Spitzer said in an interview Monday that the new technology is significant because it could help the government track the movement of radioactive material across borders. The technology is being developed by a team of scientists at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and it uses a combination of advanced imaging and data analysis to monitor the movement of containers.

Spitzer said the new technology could be used to monitor containers of radioactive material at sea, on land, and in the air. He said the technology could also be used to monitor the movement of containers of other hazardous materials, such as chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

The government has been monitoring the movement of radioactive material since the 1940s, but officials say the new technology will allow them to monitor the movement of containers in a more comprehensive and effective way. They hope the expanded monitoring program will help them better understand the movement of radioactive material and prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

The government has been working with the private sector to develop the new technology, and officials say they are confident it will be ready for use in the near future.

The expanded monitoring program will be funded by a combination of federal and private funds. Officials say they expect to spend about $1 billion on the program over the next five years.

Congress has given the Pentagon a new authority to avoid a repeat of the 2001 war in Iraq by authorizing Special Operations forces to conduct more operations abroad. The authorization, which was included in the Bipartisan Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, will allow the Pentagon to conduct military operations in countries that are not at war with the United States.

The new authority, which also would allow Special Operations forces to purchase equipment or items from the foreign markets, is spelled out in a single paragraph of the act. The authorization was voted on and approved by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in October. It was requested by the Pentagon and the commander of Special Operations Command to support a broader effort to prepare the military for future operations.

A Pentagon spokesman, Bryan Whitman, said the new authority was necessary to avoid a repeat of the 2001 war in Iraq by authorizing Special Operations troops to have the CIA to pay for criminals and could not always count on timely support, the Pentagon concluded.

In a sharp change from current policy, an influential medical advisory group is recommending that everyone over age 55 who has ever even smoked have an ultrasonic screening test to see if they are developing a condition that could kill them in minutes by burning a macula hole in the retina.

The group, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, is an independent panel that advises the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Its recommendations help set government policy and are generally followed by primary care doctors. The group, which has been examining macular degenerations since 1996, and concluded that there was insufficient evidence to recommend screening tests for everyone in a high-risk group. But now, it is found that the treatment for large clinical trials have provided the evidence it needs, at least for those most at risk.

Until now, the only way to detect the disease was to see something called a “pucker” or “latch.” And it is not as easy to tell whether a macula aneurysm is about to happen in the next several weeks to months. "put this behind us," said President Bush in his speech on September 11, 2004, as he announced the program in the budget he is to recommend to Congress and signed into law by President Bush in October. It was requested by the Pentagon and the commander of Special Operations forces for the first time to authorize Special Operations forces to conduct more operations abroad. The authorization, which was included in the Bipartisan Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, will allow the Pentagon to conduct military operations in countries that are not at war with the United States. With screening, “the science comes down to saying this is a threat to our national security, according to the Department of Defense.

The program would include representatives from the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

Spitzer intends to include about $100 million of new financing for the program in the budget he is to request in the next several weeks to months. "put this behind us," said President Bush in his speech on September 11, 2004, as he announced the program in the budget he is to recommend to Congress and signed into law by President Bush in October. It was requested by the Pentagon and the commander of Special Operations forces for the first time to authorize Special Operations forces to conduct more operations abroad. The authorization, which was included in the Bipartisan Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, will allow the Pentagon to conduct military operations in countries that are not at war with the United States.

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Co-Pay Clarifications

In response to the Jan. 26 Letter to the Editor, ["Viagra vs. Micette"], it would be nice to clarify facts regarding the costs at MIT Medical pharmacy for oral contraceptives and erectile dysfunction agents. Before discussing the specific drugs and their tier placement, it is important to note that the tiered co-payment structure mentioned in Ms. Roberts-Kopp’s letter applies only to members of the MIT employee health plans. It does not apply to student health plan members.

MIT Medical places drugs in tier categories based on clinical effectiveness and the availability of alternatives. For example, most generic drugs are Tier 1 ($8 co-pay); brand-name drugs without an alternative generic equivalent are Tier 2 ($25 co-pay); and brand-name drugs with an alternative generic equivalent are generally found in Tier 3 ($40 co-pay).

Ms. Roberts-Kopp’s letter stated that while Viagra, a brand-name drug for erectile dysfunction was a Tier-2 medication, birth-control prescriptions such as Mircette were Tier-3. Ms. Roberts-Kopp’s letter further states that the generic equivalent of Viagra is in Tier 1 for a co-pay of $8.

This is not accurate. The MIT Medical pharmacy formulary lists three erectile dysfunction agents. Viagra is in Tier 2 ($25), while Levitra and Cialis are in Tier 3 ($40). The MIT Medical pharmacy formulary lists three erectile dysfunction agents. Viagra is in Tier 2 ($25), while Levitra and Cialis are in Tier 3 ($40).

In general, MIT Medical is committed to working with all our patients to find the most cost-effective care for their needs.

William Ketyelo, MD, Medical Director

Viagra, Micette Both Difficult to Justify

Ms. Roberts-Kopp’s Jan. 26 letter, which compares the relative importance of “getting a hard on” and “preventing unwanted pregnancies,” demonstrates her acutely biased perspective on the entire matter. Viagra and Micette are in fact identical in purpose; they allow recreational sex. Women can avoid unwanted pregnancies without Micette by not having sex, just as men can avoid erectile dysfunction without Viagra by choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Personally, I think the drugs should be treated equally.

Amad Doria ’05
Trio

Will you stop following me? “The Rick and Chester Show” is over, dude! "TRIO" is my real home now... where my family and friends are. I'm sorry...

So... that's it? All our dreams and ambitions go up in smoke, just like that? What about the ideals we once shared? Our destiny was to become household names... to bring laughter and joy to the world through a simple comic strip!

Now look at you... wallowing in your complacency. Well, some of us aren't so easily satisfied! I still have a world to conquer! Therefore, I absolutely REFUSE to leave THIS VERY SPOT until you come to your senses, and join me once again!

Here's 10 bucks.

My thumb is missing.

Gone, and kinda forgotten, too.

Well, gentlemen, we lived the life we chose.

It's kinda like a terminal illness. You knew the end was coming, but you're still not ready for it.

RIP

1933-2005

P&O

Piled Higher and Deeper

If you draw cartoons for The Tech, everyone will know your name.

Be famous!

join@tt.mit.edu
KRT Crossword Solution, page 17

**ACROSS**
1. Workout locations
2. Fingers a rhythm
3. Berra
4. Balmy
5. Balfour
6. Dent of a diabolo
7. Ensue
8. Stove
9. Bumper car
10. Typical four-letter word
11. Lighter
12. Shy
13. Bally
14. Rut
15. Ego
16. Blowout
17. Ether
18. Rubber band
19. Parachute
20. Vowel
21. Dung
22. Counter
23. Bait
24. Hearty
25. Skirt
26. Obituary
27. Ozone layer
28. Bunch
29. Bollard
30. Barge
31. Bounce
32. Bunker
33. Babel
34. Bazaar
35. Bellow
36. B flattens
37. Belay
38. Bicyclist
39. Bifrost
40. Biscuit

**DOWN**
1. Increase
2. Lawrence Peter
3. Bells
4. Bailey
5. Beal
6. Beige
7. Beak
8. Beak
9. Beak
10. Beak
11. Beak
12. Beak
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**Dilbert® by Scott Adams**

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**FoxTrot by Bill Amend**
6.270 Features New Sensors, Technology

6.270, from Page 1

points, while balls of the "losing vote" were worth -1. Teams could score for themselves or give other teams points by putting balls of the losing vote into the opponent's scoring areas.

Winners use simple strategy

The winning team employed a relatively simple strategy, aiming to produce a reliable robot rather than risk complications by working hard on the competition. The team would first determine its orientation, then straighten out and knock four balls into the voting zone, guaranteeing at least two points. In their strategy, the robot would then commit the side of the table opposite the other team's robot, and collect all the balls they could. The robot would then check the vote and guess, according to where it was located on the board, what color balls it had. If the robot determined that the vote was "losing," it would color into the opponent's scoring area and the team would lose two points.

They made the robot "as few lines of code as possible," the team said, with "not much could go wrong.

Cheng said the robot "did what it was taught to do very well.

Cheng said the team was "very surprised to see our robot do very well." He said that the team decided to invest in the competition because it "seemed like a fun thing to do," he said.

Features added to competition

This year's competition included many "new technologies and advances," said Wang. In previous years, robots had moved to the other side of the table opposite the "playing field." This year, the contest organizers implemented an additional scoring system which gave teams points based on the robots' and the status of the vote from the radio frequency sensors, said 6.270 organizer Vimal Romeo.

The goal of the changes was to "make it so that teams can have more freedom to try different kinds of designs are good and worthwhile,

he said. The more complicated scoring means for the contest were "something we thought it would be pretty cool to build a robot and maybe even get it to move. Plus, we were all excited with the possibility of naming it "Peop-

David E. Tobias '06 said his strategy was to "run a crash course in C programming. Two of the three team members, which included one "embarrassed look!" fell asleep, and then woke up because I heard someone fart. It may or may not have been me. *Looks around innocently.*

One of the team members, so we got to quit singing along to the Web site.

By Jenny Zhang

We first decided to try out 6.270 just for kicks because we thought it would be pretty cool to build a robot and maybe even get it to move. Plus, we were all excited with the possibility of naming it "Fart-bot." However, the first time we tried programming our robot, we got it crying to Vimal and asked him to fix it. He basically fixed all of our crapcy soldering and then said... it worked! Both Kathy and I have longer hair than our third team member, so we got to experience the pleasant odor that resulted from burning our faces on the soldering iron.

Our first major assignment was called "Romero and Juliet." Our robot was supposed to find a spot on the game board by knowing its coordinates, as communicated by radio frequency. It seemed really simple: just drive from point A to point B, but of course it wasn't. My teammates, being math whizzes, quickly figured out a nifty angle-checking program through which our robot could learn how much it needed to turn to align itself to the straightest path to the other point, a.k.a. Rom and Jul.

During the month of January, we spent hours and hours in lab, hammering away, experimenting, singing and songs with new lyrics that we made up. Towards the end, the lab field was crowded and the lab was open 24 hours a day. To keep the team members awake, they played movies continuously. We brought in a laptop with my playlist, which consisted of songs by Billy Bob Thornton, Hanson, Beach Boys, and Michael Jackson. We also really liked the song "Stacy's Mom," because it's really cool. Maybe we annoyed the heck out of our neighbors, but nobody told us to shut up. We gave them our knowledge to our teammates to quit singing along to the beautiful music.

Robots started spending around 5 p.m., and around noon we began realizing that we would not be able to get most of the things we had planned to work. We were sad for a while, but we were forced to really care how we did in the competition. We all genuinely were glad we had participated to get the knowledge that our robot might not work at all.

As 2 p.m. approached, we were running out of time for coding so we just pasted together random code we already had and hoped for the best. We had never tested the final code we loaded into the robot, so on the morning of competition day, we were thrilled that the robot actually moved during the qualifying rounds, even though it was not in a very fancy manner. Very soon after, it got stuck into a wall near the voting area and stayed there for the rest of the one minute round. At least it looked like it was attempting to vote, though we had never tried to make it do so. The competition was double elimination, but so many teams lost in the morning (a double loss is impossible if both teams don't score) that the staff decided that the teams to participate in the finals round that evening.

The evening round was really exciting, even though we had low expectations. We were being webcast live, and Kathy managed to pick her nose on the big screen. Although we lost in the first round of the evening even after the one penalty for not realizing the right color into our scoring area during the afternoon, it gave other teams a chance to face the duration of the competition. After going through the experience ourselves, actually getting our hands on an automated robot, it was much easier to appreciate how well other teams must have designed, built, and programed their robots to get them to function. After having worked alongside these teams all day, we were able to appreciate how well other teams must have designed, built, and programed their robots to get them to function. After having worked alongside these teams all day, we were able to appreciate how well other teams must have designed, built, and programed their robots to get them to function. After having worked alongside these teams all day, we were able to appreciate how well other teams must have designed, built, and programed their robots to get them to function. After having worked alongside these teams all day, we were able to appreciate how well other teams must have designed, built, and programed their robots to get them to function. After having worked alongside these teams all day, we were able to appreciate how well other teams must have designed, built, and programed their robots to get them to function.

We first decided to try out 6.270 just for kicks because we thought it would be pretty cool to build a robot and maybe even get it to move. Plus, we were all excited with the possibility of naming it "Fart-bot." However, the first time we tried programming our robot, we got it crying to Vimal and asked him to fix it. He basically fixed all of our crapcy soldering and then it worked! Both Kathy and I have longer hair than our third team member, so we got to experience the pleasant odor that resulted from burning our faces on the soldering iron.

Our first major assignment was called "Romero and Juliet." Our robot was supposed to find a spot on the game board by knowing its coordinates, as communicated by radio frequency. It seemed really simple: just drive from point A to point B, but of course it wasn't. My teammates, being math whizzes, quickly figured out a nifty angle-checking program through which our robot could learn how much it needed to turn to align itself to the straightest path to the other point, a.k.a. Rom and Jul.

During the month of January, we spent hours and hours in lab, hammering away, experimenting, singing and songs with new lyrics that we made up. Towards the end, the lab field was crowded and the lab was open 24 hours a day. To keep the team members awake, they played movies continuously. We brought in a laptop with my playlist, which consisted of songs by Billy Bob Thornton, Hanson, Beach Boys, and Michael Jackson. We also really liked the song "Stacy's Mom," because it's really cool. Maybe we annoyed the heck out of our neighbors, but nobody told us to shut up. We gave them our knowledge to our teammates to quit singing along to the beautiful music.
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A member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority welcomes back her re-affiliated sisters with a banner and a smile. Following the end of the sorority recruitment period on Monday, Jan. 31, members dis-affiliated for recruitment purposes were re-affiliated in Kresge Auditorium.

Thanks to you, all sorts of everyday products are being made from the paper, plastic, metal and glass that you’ve been recycling.

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UA Fills Positions of Secretary, Treasurer

By Kathy Lin
EDITORS IN CHIEF

A new Undergraduate Association treasurer and secretary general have been appointed by UA President Harel M. Williams ’05, pending approval by the UA Senate.

Yao-Chung King ’06 has been appointed treasurer, replacing Janet Y. Zhou ’06. Zhou resigned to replace Phillip A. Vasquez ’05 as the UA Vice President.

Tulasi Khandan ’06 has been appointed secretary general, replacing Amelia L. Laughton ’06.

Neither has prior experience working for the UA, and both were selected through an application and interview process.

Both candidates bring experience

King “has a lot of background in finances,” including serving as treasurer of the Chinese Student Club, going through treasurer training, applying for funding through the UA’s Financial Board, and doing similar work for his fraternity, Williams said.

Through working for the CSC, he “has the perspective of a student group” applying for funding, which will help him with the job of treasurer, Williams said. Khandan’s main experience that prepared her for the secretary general job is her term as the secretary of the House Committee of MacGregor House, she said.

“She’s clearly energetic about improving student life,” Williams said.

As the secretary general, Khandan will be “the communications liaison” of the UA and will be responsible for maintaining communication between the UA and outside individuals and groups, according to the UA Web site. She will also be the UA’s primary archivist, according to the Web site.

“I have to get used to what the UA does and how they go about doing their work,” Khandan said. “Mostly, the aim is to make sure that all the proceedings are well-documented and carried out in the right way,” she said.

She also plans to work with other UA members on planned projects, such as the launching of an online forum.

Through working for the CSC, he “has the perspective of a student group” applying for funding, which will help him with the job of treasurer, Williams said.

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A pirate ship sails in front of Kresge Auditorium on the morning of Monday, Jan. 31. The hack was in honor of the Department of Ocean Engineering, which merged with the Department of Mechanical Engineering on Jan. 1.

CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Katherine H. Aull ’08 stamps registration forms in DuPont Gymnasium on Registration Day, Monday, Jan. 31. Aull is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, which volunteered its services for the day.

CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH
MIT Students Enjoy the Winter Blizzard Creatively

(left) Yushan Kim ’07 leaps onto a pile of snow ahead of Christine Fanchiang ’07 as Ryan E. Pester ’07 takes a picture Sunday afternoon Jan. 23. The three met in the New House 3 courtyard to frolic in the mounds of white stuff.

(right) Scott D. Torborg ’07 (right) stands next to Steve Brown of the Cambridge Fire Department Dive Rescue Team during an ice diving class held last Sunday. Both Torborg and Daniel Nedelou ’06 participated in the course at Glen Lake in Goffst, NH.

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17.433/434 Spring 2005
International Relations of East Asia

Is the 21st Century the Pacific Century?
Will there be war in the Taiwan Straits?
How strong is al-Qaeda in Southeast Asia?
Why did Nixon go to China?
What is ASEAN?

Professor Fravel
Tues. & Thurs.
3:00 - 4:30pm
E51-361

This course will attempt to answer the questions above as it analyzes the international relations of East Asia. During the Cold War, East Asia witnessed intense competition and conflict between the superpowers and among the states in the region. In the post Cold War era, East Asia has been the engine of the global economy while undergoing a major shift in the balance of power whose trajectory and outcome remains uncertain. This course will examine the sources of conflict and cooperation in both periods, assessing competing explanations for key events in the region’s international relations.

For more information contact Prof. Fravel, fravel@mit.edu

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Super Bowl Sunday Security Stepped Up

Safety, from Page 1

on the riots that followed last year’s Red Sox and Patriots victories and how to increase safety for celebrations following the Super Bowl.

O’Toole said that every available Boston Police officer will be working on Sunday night, and they will be collaborating with the Massachusetts State Police and Campus Police from the local colleges and universities.

Boston Police Captain Robert M. Filberry, whose district includes the Kenmore Square area, asked the student representatives to impress upon their constituents that they should not go to Kenmore Square on Sunday evening. “It’s not in [student’s] best interests,” he said.

Baker said that the office of Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will be providing funds for food to dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

“Our focus really is for students to provide awareness about safety,” Baker said. She also said that alternative events will be encouraged.

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CITADEL
“Order of Random Gauchy” Wins MASLab

By Kathy Lin

Over 50 students on 15 teams participated in the Mobile Autonomous System Laboratory, better known as MASLab, competition during the Independent Activities Period.

For the competition, teams of three to four students built robots that competed in the finals last Friday evening. Daniel M. Kane ’07, Anders H. Kasznior ’08, You Zhou ’07, and Andrew P. Spamin ’07 won the competition with the most points scored.

MASLab puts an “emphasis on building cool robots,” said Christopher P. Batten, one of the MASLab organizers. Although there are some restrictions and rules, teams are relatively free to decide what materials and strategies they want to use.

We don’t want to inhibit people,” Batten said. The team members get “a really hard problem and some really good equipment, and we just see what they can do,” Batten said.

The competition was vision-based, meaning teams used digital cameras on their robots to look at colors on the playing field and try to earn points.

In this year’s competition, robots earned points by collecting balls and doing different things with the balls.

The playing field was a 20 by 20 foot field, but the actual shape of the board was unknown. The robots were given three minutes to explore the board, then three minutes to actually score points.

Few teams, however, decided to use the exploration period, and only one team used it to its advantage.

There was a pretty wide range of robots and strategies, Batten said. For example, one robot could slide sideways, while another used mouse encoders for navigation.

Another robot was able to text message a laptop with a speech synthesizer, so it could say what it was thinking, Batten said. For example, the robot would say “ouch” when it hit a wall.

Many teams also had creative strategies for image processing, which was one of the big challenges in the competition, Batten said.

“We were trying to have fun, but we were certainly trying to win,” Kasznior said, adding that their team “spent basically all day every day,” especially during the last week, on the robot.

“Order of Random Gauchy” is one of the many teams that built robots for the competition. They had different strategies for how they wanted to approach the competition, Batten said.

For the competition, teams of three to four students built robots that competed in the finals last Friday evening.

While some teams had a clear strategy, others were more flexible in their approach. Batten said that “we just see what they can do,” and that there were many different strategies used.

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A team looks at their robot competes in the MASLab competition on the evening of Friday, Jan. 28.

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Men and Women Compete at Weekend Track Meets

The MIT Men’s track team attended and won a meet hosted by Bowdoin College last Saturday, Jan. 29.
(right) Kenneth K. Rosche ’08 hands off MIT’s baton to David A. Blau ’06 during the 4x400m relay.
(bottom right) Zachary J. Traina ’05 pounds out of the blocks at the start of the 4x400m relay.
(below) Fivos G. Constantinou ’06 runs MIT’s anchor leg during the 4x800m relay.

Photography by Omari Stephens

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Submission Deadline
February 15th

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Submit now!
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Winter Off-Season Teaches Us Several New Baseball Lessons

By Yong-yi Zhu

STANLEY HU—THE TECH

What baseball lessons did we learn over that month and a half when many of you took a break from the stressful routines of school and indulged in the pleasures of everyday life?

For one thing, we learned that running a baseball team is among the many tasks at which Harvard graduates don’t excel. They might be more arrogant than we are, but when it comes to making decisions, I wouldn’t trust them with the important ones.

A perfect example is the general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Paul Depodesta, a Harvard graduate. He was entrusted with the task of making the Dodgers successful but has both ruined his own reputation and severely hindered the chances for LA to win another NL Central title in this upcoming year.

His first mistake was taking part in a three team trade with the Yankees and the Diamondbacks. He was willing to give up big name players just to make their roster better or to win a championship. Take pitcher Roger Clemens and the Houston Astros. There is no way that paying $18.5 million per year (Clemens’ new salary) for one player significantly improved the Astros’ chances of winning the NL Central; it was merely a way to fill the stadium with fans every fifth day.

Another money-oriented move was the Orioles trade for Sammy Sosa. They had lost out on pretty much every major free agent on the market, so the only plan to attract fans was to bring in someone well known through a trade.

Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa seemed to be the perfect candidate, as he is a fan favorite and the Cubs are desperately trying to get rid of the slugger. What it comes down to is the Orioles trying to fill the stands while not making a large effort at winning anything substantial.

Even in a winter month, there are still many lessons to be learned in the world of baseball.