Local Phone Service to Cost $17 a Month

By Beckett W. Sterner

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Potatoes, Cookies Disavow Harvard

By Beckett W. Sterner

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Doria Holbrook Wins At Diving Nationals

By Victoria K. Anderson

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The Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy, 42°F (6°C)

Tonight: Cloudy, windy, 23°F (-5°C)

tomorrow: Cloudy, windy, 43°F (6°C)

Details, Page 2
U.S. and Iraq forces have captured a former member of Saddam Hussein's government and two of the dictator's relatives, officials said on Monday.

The relatives, Abdullah Maher Abdul Rashid and his cousin Marwan Abdul Rashid, were captured on Monday near Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, the Iraqi government said in a statement issued on Monday. Residents of Tikrit provided the information that led to the arrests.

Marwan Maher Abdul Rashid was a bodyguard for Saddam. Abdullah Maher Abdul Rashid is a brother-in-law of Saddam's son Qusai, who was killed in a battle with U.S. soldiers in July 2003 and from whom he is thought to have received large amounts of money to finance insurgent attacks, Iraqi officials said.

The third man arrested, Omar Hassan Chiad, was an official in Saddam's government and was caught by U.S. soldiers, Iraqi police officials said. The U.S. military would give no details about the man or about his arrest.

Chinese Leader Defends Law Allowing Taiwan Attack

By Jim Yardley

WASHINGTON — In a victory for city officials here, a judge in San Francisco County Superior Court ruled Monday that California’s ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, overturning a statewide proposition passed in 2000 that defined marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman.

In a tentative ruling, Judge Richard A. Kramer said “the denial of marriage to same-sex couples appears impermissibly arbitrary,” thereby violating the equal protection clause of the state constitution. The ruling will not be made final until the judge meets with the various parties to the litigation on March 30.

While welcoming the decision, which came in a lawsuit filed by the city against the state, Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco said “it is only the beginning” of a long battle that will probably be decided by the California Supreme Court.

Newsom said that marriage licenses would not be issued to same-sex couples in San Francisco while the litigation continued.

His comments came about an hour after the National People’s Congress overwhelming approved the law. It grants legal authority to the top leaders to attack Taiwan if they believe the disputed island territory is moving too far toward independence.

“We don’t want to see foreign interference,” Wen said slowly, speaking about Taiwan, “but we do not fear foreign interference.”

The assembled hall of 700 journalists, a large majority Chinese, applauded.

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Chinese Leader Defends Law Allowing Taiwan Attack

By Dean E. Murphy

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He will continue to respect the decisions of the court,” Newsom said.

Nonetheless, celebrations erupted at City Hall, as same-sex couples crowded into a news conference held by Newsom and other city officials, and gay and lesbian leaders announced there would be revelry throughout the evening in the Castro, the city’s best-known gay district.

Marches and rallies were announced in at least a dozen other cities across the state.

“Today, we truly believe that California is a better place than it was yesterday,” said John Lewis, who exchanged kisses with his partner of 18 years, Stuart Gaffney, in front of phalanx of cameras at City Hall.

A spokesman for Bill Lockyer, the California attorney general, said the judge’s ruling was being reviewed and had no further comment.

Other defenders of the state marriage laws said it would be appealed as soon as it was made final.

This was not a good decision for us, I acknowledge that,” said Glen Lavy, senior counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian group based in Arizona, adding however, that it was only “the first stop in the judicial battle in California.”

Mathew D. Staver, president and general counsel of Liberty Counsel, which represents Campaign for California Families, a group in Sacramento’s bid to legalize same-sex marriages, denounced the ruling as “judicious.”

“Marriage should not be undermined by the stroke of a pen from a single judge,” Staver said in a statement.

“This ruling, which flies in the face of common sense and millennia of human history, will pour gasoline on the fire fueled by the pro-marriage movement,”

Newsom opened the doors of City Hall to same-sex marriages in February 2004 only to have them closed and the licenses invalidated by the California Supreme Court.

The high court determined Newsom had exceeded his authority as mayor, but it did not consider the constitutionality of state laws restricting marriage to a man and a woman.

In the ruling on Monday, Kramer said was responding to a lawsuit filed by the city and more than a dozen same-sex couples, including Lewis and Gaffney, to challenge the state’s gender-related restriction on marriage.

The restriction is based on a law enacted by the Legislature in 1977 and the statewide initiative approved by the voters in 2000, known as Proposition 22.


Tonight: Decreasing clouds with occasionally gusty winds. Low 25°F (-4°C).

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, windy with some snow showers. High 37°F (3°C). Low 27°F (-3°C).

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. High 39°F (4°C).

Weather Systems

Stationary Front

Moderate to heavy snow showers

High Pressure

Moran Plateau

The Tech

By David Flagg

Elsewhere with wetter conditions along the West Coast but generally variable warmer than normal in the northwestern half of the country and cooler than normal to the Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, it will be

areas in the upper Midwest, High Plains and Rockies enjoyed temperature anomalies of of the U.S. enjoyed a relatively mild winter. Only the immediate U.S. East Coast, parts

THE BOSTON GLOBE

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE TECH

By Gretchen Morgenson

IBM Corp., reaching again into the Massachusetts high-tech cluster, said Monday it has signed a definitive agreement to buy Ascential territories and Exchange Commission

IBM to Buy Ascential

By Maurice R. Greenberg, the executive who built American International Group into a global insurance powerhouse and shaped an entire industry, has stepped down as chief executive of the company. Greenberg will be questioned at a

Insurance Chief Executive Resigns as Longtime

By Robert Weisman

IBM, to Buy Ascential

By Robert Weisman

IBM Corp., reaching again into the Massachusetts high-tech cluster, said Monday it has signed a definitive agreement to buy Ascential Software Corp. of Westbrook for $1.1 billion in cash.

By purchasing Ascen
tial, which sells data integration software to corporations, IBM is hoping to strengthen its business helping companies manage their data at a time when a spike in mergers and the spreading use of the Internet for retail operations have created new and larger streams of data. Ascen
tial Software had recently signed a deal with IBM, with a reported 46 percent total revenue increase to $271.9 million.

Over the next two months, as the parties present their deal to regu

lations, it will be finalized soon, according to two people briefed on the board’s discussions. IBM is of time, according to two people

briefed on the board’s discussions.

The departure of Greenberg, who is widely viewed as one of the most significant figures in the insurance industry, is already raising questions about a transaction that may be of time, according to two people

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Although the period between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox defines the astronomical calendar, meteorologists often refer to the winter solstice as the third quarter of December through February as the winter season. In spite of the cooler than normal conditions in Boston (0.9°F (0.5°C) lower than usual), the entire state of Massachusetts had a relatively mild winter.

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Huge Lebanon Demonstration Demands Syrian Troops Leave

By Neil MacFarquhar

Lebanon's anti-Syria opposition prolonged momentum on Monday as hundreds of thousands of people jammed Beirut's central square to demand the end to Syrian control throughout Lebanon.

Seemingly every available space around the heart of the city overflowed with people, who were jamming the red-and-white Lebanese flag, in a show of the long-rather than the short-run power of the Syria rally last Tuesday organized by the radical Shiite party Hezbollah.

“We don’t want Syrian spies and secret police; we don’t want any foreign intervention,” said Noha Dahir, a veiled 18-year-old from the southern Bekaa Valley, as she joined others who were trapped up by bus from the northern city of Tripoli. Those Lebanese who want to stay can go to live in Syria. There are plenty of Lebanon here to fill the country.”

The most notable element in the demonstration in Martyrs' Square was that it had been carefully organized by the opposition's leadership.

By Eric Eckholm

February 23, 2004

Iraqi Oil Firms Rebuff Proposal for Postwar Fuel Imports to Iraq by the Halliburton Co. totaled more than $108 million, according to government auditors that was completed last fall but has never been officially released to Congress.

But the administration has kept all but two of those reports remains confidential "in the interest of national security," said the vice president's office.

The two sides plan additional talks on border security, arming the Palestinians, and which also as been a launching pad for many suicide bombings.

The soldiers, at the University of Illinois, did not speculate how the bubble would form at room temperature, the surface of the bubble can reach temperatures of about 100 degrees Fahrenheit, more than twice as hot as the surface of the sun.

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The government revised its data for the fourth quarter of 2004 to an annualized growth rate of 0.5 percent, from a preliminary estimate of a 0.5 percent decline.

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On March 4, MIT’s five most recent DomCon ex-presidents sent a letter (available at http://web/domcon/docs/column-letter-march2005.pdf) to President Hayfield both welcoming her to the helm of MIT and offering advice about the continued dormitory and living group changes now being implemented at MIT. Making reference to the 1998 Presidential Task Force on Student Life and Learning report (available at http://web.mit.edu-committee-stlf.html), the former students offered both agreement with many of the report’s positive findings on the nature of MIT’s community life (loyalty to residence, independence of community groups, diversity of groups) as well as disappointment with the Institute’s most recent and controversial changes in dormitory and PSIILG life (freshmen in dormitories, truncated Orientation experience, challenges to community autonomy).

After sizing up the ongoing changes to the dormitory and PSIILG system and presenting their interpretation of the 1998 Task Force’s findings, the ex-presidents made several suggestions for Dr. Hayfield on how to bring MIT’s plans for residence change more into line with MIT’s own goals. Among these suggestions were to preserve the shared living space between freshmen and upperclassmen (avoid a freshmen-only dormitory), to maintain the rights of students to take on high responsibility for their living space (by providing a ‘no striping even more autonomy from dormitory’, to preserve the idea that MIT community flows in part from residence community, and to infuse REX with more qualities of the original ‘rush’ period. According to the authors, these suggestions were both likely to foster good community as defined by the Task Force and representative of the common sense and preferences of the MIT undergraduate student community. The preamble to the letter also contained a plea not to bring MIT’s residence system into line with other institutions simply for the sake of conformity to the mainstream, on the basis that MIT’s unique ways of doing things are consistently superior and that our strong community ties speak for themselves.

While the majority of campus undergraduates certainly share the hopes of the letter’s authors, most notably a return to the former system of pre-2002 residence ‘rush’, The Tech feels that this entreaty by former DomCon presidents, however earnest, runs into the usual problem of issuing requests in a manner that MIT’s administration is simply unable to process. While the letter does make references to the Task Force Report, and it does make the case that such benefits would arise to the administration by granting undergraduates’ wishes, it phrases both complaints and benefits from the perspective of students rather than administrators. Rather than focusing on potential benefits that would accrue to the adults with authority, the letter focuses with only a few exceptions on tangible benefits that are easily brushed aside by an administrator who has never been a student in MIT’s residence system.

The situation would be unfortunate, because it would overlook the tangible benefits of our residence system, many of which involve using community to prevent problems that occur at other more mainstream institutions. For example, the relatively lower rate of substance abuse at MIT is mitigated by the common desire of students to preserve the shared living space between freshmen and upperclassmen. It acts as a deterrent to both freshmen and upperclassmen from taking drugs and alcohol. It also makes it easier for the freshmen and upperclassmen to control their own behavior. This is because the freshmen are not only in their own dormitory, but also in the dormitory of their upperclassmen.

Strong, age-varied communities tend to down on the sort of atrocious underclassmen behavior exhibited at schools with weaker community and most notably, all freshmen dormitories, which tend to be famous for drinking and general debauchery. To put it simply, the MIT administration reaps many hidden benefits from our unique living arrangements that are probably never considered. Every freshman that enters an existing MIT-style community is money saved to MIT in terms of substance abuse apparatus at MIT Medical. A similar argument might be made for conditions such as depression which are mitigated by communities where even the most unique personalities can find a niche in our various dormitories and living groups. It is reasonable to assume that MIT’s tight-knit communities lessen the dangers of depression and improves the mental health of the students. This translates into money saved on things like suicide prevention, as well as to promote the general mental health of its students, it should consider maintaining parts of its residence system that have helped the community so faithfully over time.
A constant refrain on one campus is that dorm rush is an antiquated, upperclassmen apathetic, and student government that we all value. The more tentative posture to exorcise dorm rush, randomize housing, and kill all semblances of unique culture that represent the dorm system.

The leadership of REX, then, feels that this year’s schedule changes will make an improvement over the schedule of last year and a major step in the right direction, although much more work is still needed to make future calendars easier even.

We would like to take this space to address the concerns that many people have about dorm rush.

Dorm rush is happening at the beginning of Orientation this week. We think this is a logical time to allow people to meet where they want to live, get settled in, and turn their heads to the broader, local- ized friendships. Rather than having to squeeze rush into a three-day jumble of class schedules, residence-based programs, and con- sessions and Playfairs, dorm selection and community building will be a highlight for the first two full days that they spend at MIT. Since more and more freshmen are moving in, we expect Rush will be even more of a fantastic time to hold events of this variety. This year, all of Sunday, all of Monday and part of Tuesday are devoted to varying degrees. This year, all of Sunday, all of Monday and part of Tuesday are devoted to dorm rush; after which, getting acquainted with dorm cultures will become the priority for the next few weeks, and the students have more unrestricted time to hold events of their choosing than they had last year.

We are working toward expanding stu- dent life activities to a full three-day period with REX laced between residence-based pro- grams. Dorm rush brings many of the experiences that freshmen have during their high school years to MIT: from finding people to talk to with whom they can identify to how they thrive. One of the best parts of being a freshman is making friends, Sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate students and professors all live and work together. As students, we want to have the opportunity to meet and make friends, building their physical and social networks. If we need to strengthen our communities, we need to cultivate leaders and we need to give freshmen the tools to succeed in every way pos- sible at MIT. We feel that working with the dorm-based orientation to introduce MIT’s unique working culture into Orientation will help freshmen, upperclassmen, and ultimately our community.

Apathy destroys community, reduces effi- ciency, and costs lives. Money won’t cure it. Rather than having to advertise to the world … MIT should lead the charge in teaching security to the world …

I was pleased to see these results and alerted to the possibility of important work that students unearthy who they really are. We feel that this introduction to our culture will feature prominently where people live and how they thrive. One of the best parts of being a freshman is making friends, Sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate students and professors all live and work together. As students, we want to have the opportunity to meet and make friends, building their physical and social networks. If we need to strengthen our communities, we need to cultivate leaders and we need to give freshmen the tools to succeed in every way pos- sible at MIT. We feel that working with the dorm-based orientation to introduce MIT’s unique working culture into Orientation will help freshmen, upperclassmen, and ultimately our community.

This message was approved unanimously by the REX Executive Committee.

I am not accusing him, but I think it is closer to Hitler in ideals than you are, but doctrine and ideology took a back seat to lust in Stalin. The fact is, when it comes to the totalit- ary’s values” were and are untenable: Social security, which is not surprising given the fact that the government gouges the paychecks of the very poor to the rich, it inevitably happens that, once the government gets the money, the rich have wealth not from the rich to the poor, but from the poor to the rich. You and I can stop this if we get the government out of this game by privatizing social security.

The reverse of, of course, is true once the government gets the money. The more revenues in the form of subsidies: the strong are able to take care of their friends and families; and the weak cannot. Consequently, no matter how well-intentioned any government redistribu- tion efforts are, the system itself is so disadvan- taged by social security, which is not surprising given the fact that the government gouges the paychecks of the very poor to the rich, it inevitably happens that, once the government gets the money, the rich have wealth not from the rich to the poor, but from the poor to the rich. You and I can stop this if we get the government out of this game by privatizing social security.

With reference to social security, it cannot be escaped that there are few if any interest groups that stand to benefit from this program, at least not among the elderly. First, the elderly, are on average, the wealthiest age group in this country. Second, they are also the highest lever of government tran- mission, as measured both by voter turnout rates and contributions to political candidates.

Third, they have, in the American Association of Retired Persons, or the AARP, what Fortune magazine calls the “most powerful lobbying organization in Washington.”

At the core of this debate lies a crucial issue: how are individuals to behave online? Online security, hacking, and when they're young, so that they can't afford to do their parts to make MIT the place we always dreamt it would be. A number of experts agree that the root cause was a grossly insecure Web site, not a hack.

The real analogies to the real world were mistakenly posted in a dark, public, but secure environment. It is not public, or even necessarily “social,” any more. It is, essentially, a publication of Professor Orrin Kerr: obtaining information posted with- out the knowledge of the person in question is not acceptable. Whether the request is served by a person on the phone or by a web server should not make a difference.

At the time of the debate, this would become a major reason for MIT students to avoid such an arrangement. At the very beginning of their careers, they are bound to have known friends who have enrolled to show up on time; we will coordi- nate REX into FPOP time as well. People have always dreamt it would be.

To our parts to make MIT the place we always dreamt it would be. A number of experts agree that the root cause was a grossly insecure Web site, not a hack.

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Trio

Hey yo... tell all your friends about ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

I am SICK and TIRED of being forced into the same old stupid mold! People telling me how I'm supposed to look and act... people always questioning my femininity!

Mai, wear this! Mai, walk like that! Mai, how come they're so tiny? Mai, you're going into the wrong restroom! Mai, you should smile and giggle more! Mai, you're never gonna find a man unless you're more "feminine"...

As if those are the ONLY dreams I should ever aim for in life!

Well, listen up, boys and girls! The next one of you out there to doubt my gender will receive a ninja boot to YOUR gender! Courtesy of NINJA GIRL MAI... GOT IT?!!

Uh, Mai...

What is it?! I'm on a roll here! Unless you wanna be my first volunteer!

No, no... I prefer my gender to be boot-less, thanks! I just wanted to know who you were pointing at, that's all.

If I ran the CIA...

This is from an agent Paul's... are we going to shoot a video with Tashiki and Ja Rule?

Good morning, Mr. Can! The CIA wanted to tell you that we've learned Saudi Arabia has agreed to shoot a video with Tashiki and Ja Rule.

Thanks to American Idol & Source!

United NINJA GIRL MAI

Record

To Kim Wu and her "Fabulous like me" posters! Did you even read the last comic? You must be the people's champion to win.

COURSE?

WELL, IT TOOK THREE LONG DAYS, BUT MY CLASS PROJECT IS FINALLY DONE.

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET ON TOP OF THE DOME.

To Kim Wu and her "Fabulous like me" posters! Did you even read the last comic? You must be the people's champion to win.

BizToons

I CAN'T AFFORD RENT ON UNEMPLOYMENT. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET A ROOMMATE.

SOME STRANGER IS GOING TO COME IN HERE AND TOUCH MY STUFF. SET ON MY COUCH... EAT MY FOOD...

HEY! GET OUT OF MY UNDERWEAR YOU LITTLE FREAK!!

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

ACROSS
1 Current unit, for short
4 Beach toy
8 Shaken instrument
14 Buddy
15 Part of A.M.
16 Beneficial
17 Cool down
18 Astronauts’ grp.
19 Start of Jerry Seinfeld quote
20 Biblical mount
22 Whirlpool tub
24 Extinct bird
25 Part 2 of quote
28 “...the twain shall meet”
29 Tiered bric-a-brac shelves
34 Mark Twain and Saki, e.g.
38 Villain’s look
39 “The Time Machine*
40 Part 3 of quote
43 Dental exam
44 Spud
46 Ear doctor’s instrument
48 Audio equipment
51 With, in Arles
52 Part 4 of quote
57 Stench
61 Natl. interest
62 Frankie and Cleo
64 Spike or Peggy
65 Discomfort
67 Make lace
68 Picture holders
69 Otherwise
70 Mich. in Chicago, e.g.
71 Thoroughfare
72 Ceremony
73 Miles/hour connector
77 Perry’s creator
35 Israeli port
36 Observe
37 West Coast airport code
41 Provo’s place
42 Fiction writer
45 Ump’s cohort
47 Tennessee city
49 Where sporozoan zygotes develop
50 Indian honorific
53 Slim candle
54 Standing by
55 AWOL part
56 Aromatic compound
57 Switch positions
58 Flit
59 Sharif of film
60 Coating of ice
64 Spike or Peggy
66 The Greatest

DOWN
1 Concerning bees
2 Spreadsheet user’s shortcut
3 Guilty and not guilty
4 Cure-all
5 Vehement denunciation
6 Part of TGIIF
7 Canine tether
8 “Teenage __ Ninja Turtles”
9 Hardwood tree
10 Marsh grass
11 ‘60s hairdo
12 Signaled
13 Too
21 More fluid
23 Pizza order
26 Vichy very
27 Xenon or neon
30 Italian dumplings
31 Architect Saarinen
32 Harvest
33 Perry’s creator
34 Strokes
35 Israeli port
36 Observe
37 West Coast airport code
41 Provo’s place
42 Fiction writer
45 Ump’s cohort
47 Tennessee city
49 Where sporozoan zygotes develop
50 Indian honorific
53 Slim candle
54 Standing by
55 AWOL part
56 Aromatic compound
57 Switch positions
58 Flit
59 Sharif of film
60 Coating of ice
64 Spike or Peggy
66 The Greatest

KRT Crossword Solution, page 12

Come play with our pineapples.
We promise they won’t bite.*

join@the-tech.mit.edu

*We can’t actually promise that.
tired of linear systems? 
try chaos.

nature. tools. toys. 
http://coe.mit.edu

Congratuations 
to the newly initiated members of 
Kappa Alpha Theta

Alyse Wu  
Angelina Bas- 
karan  
Anne Liu  
Christina Sher

Diana Shi  
Irene Hsu  
Jennifer Kwok  
Jennifer Yang  
Jenny Chen  
Jihee Han  
Jizi Dai  
Joey Wong

Katy Hartman  
Liz Jordan  
Maryann Chu  
Melissa Chu  
Michelle Jeong

Rany Woo  
Rose Zhong  
Seema Verma  
Serena Lin  
Shelly Manber  
Shirin Pillay  
Shu Wang  
Tara Chang  
Yi Wang
The change made by administrators this spring to require the housing system to pay its own way means that if nothing changed, students’ rent would rise by $150 to $200.

“What has happened is that the cost of telephone services was rather reasonable and was included in the rental price, Nilsson said. But now, “that cost has gone up dramatically.”

“Had we stayed with the current system, she said, MIT “would have had to go over and above what we’d normally raise” rents.

“What we’ve done instead is taken a look at this issue and how phones are being used,” she said. A lot of students carry a cell phone now or use the internet to communicate, reducing the need for a dormitory phone, she said. However, no administrator was able to produce statistics for how much dormitory phone usage varied with owning a cell phone.

“Regulations limit subsidy MIT cannot both subsidize the monthly cost and have students pay monthly bills because of government regulations that set terms on rules for how an institution can charge for services,” Dolan said. The regulations do not require MIT to charge for services, she said, “but if you do charge for services, then you need to treat the campus staff the same as the students. You cannot give students preferential treatment for the same service.”

“That would not be able to charge the student less” for the same service, she said.

Kathy Lin contributed to the reporting of this story.
Hamentashen Operator Acts on Latke Light in Widening Debate

The three defending the hamentashen, unable to claim the vote of Hockfield, instead suggested that Summers supported the latke and that the audience should therefore vote for the hamentashen.

Kastner, in support of the hamentashen, first explained the appearance of the triangular cookie throughout the laws of physics, such as in Maxwell’s Equations as the “hamentashen operator” (frequently misconstrued as the divergence operator), in Hamentashen diagrams, more commonly known as Feynman diagrams, in quarks, which are held together by the strong nuclear force, “which is really the hamentashen,” and in cosmology, as “the universe is really mostly dark hamentashen.”

The latke, however, appears only in string theory, but “most physicists don’t take string theory very seriously,” Summers said.

Given this confounding inequality between the success of the two foods in physics, Kastner said that he “turned to one expert who gave me his candid opinion,” Summers.

Kastner then displayed a slide reading “innate differences between hamentashen and latkes might be one reason fewer latkes succeed” in science and mathematics careers.

Sudoway also emphasized that Summers favored the latke, and that he had therefore “come to the conclusion 180 degrees” from that of a president of a university named Hockfield.

Sudoway also argued that the latke “harbored a monosaccharide indisputably nasty due to ‘primary covalent bonding and crosslinking,’ while the hamentashen’s ‘gentle, secondary bonds . . . pose no digestive threat.’”

Furthermore, Sudoway said, due to high levels of calories, sodium, and cholesterol, “the latke is not health food,” and because of its cooking in oil, “poses an environmental problem.”

Wolfe, who teaches 9:00 (Introduction to Psychology), argued that Freud based his three part model of the ego, superego, and id on the hamentashen. He then questioned Hockfield’s allegiance to the latke, claiming she had previously been inducted into the order of hamentashen for research involving the cookie.

Hockfield’s presence on the latke team, then, was clearly a way to reach out to “overserved communities,” when in fact, it is “fairly easy clear where her loyalties and yours should be,” Wolfe said.

Latke is light

Lewin argued that the debate between latke and hamentashen be subject to “objective scientific scrutiny.”

Lewin claimed that he spoke with a rabbi, who told him “latkes are divine” and “have a magic power.” The light in the miracle of Hanukkah, he said, the rabbi told him, “comes from the latkes, not from the oil,” and in Hebrew, latke is equivalent to light.

Lewin carried out an experiment in which he verified the light-generating power of the latke, using the latke to brighten a light bulb by moving it through a coil.

“The radiation field of the latke couples to the coil, and it generates a current which powers the light bulb,” he explained. This scientific research using the latke, he said, has “potential for the Nobel prize,” and three UROP students, two graduate students, and a postdoctoral fellow are working on the project.

Wolfe, however, criticized Lewin’s relation between the latke and light, saying that Lewin “doesn’t understand the difference between metaphor and reality,” showing the “need at MIT for HASS distribution subjects.” The idea of the latke as light, he said, “flies in the face of physiological reason.”

Licht also took a scientific approach to defending the latke. The latke, a potato cooked in oil, “can be viewed structurally as a hydrophilic cavity in a lipid environment,” like the ion channels necessary for cell signaling, he said.

The hamentashen, on the other hand, after a few bites, “is homo- phobic to a protein-eating enzyme from pathogenic bacteria.” The choice between latke and hamentashen then, is a choice between a life of “productive illumination” from the latke, or “a slow and painful death” from the hamentashen, he said.
March 15, 2005

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WHAT EXTENT ARE HEADPHONES SAFE?

Concerned

Music Lover

Ask a MedLink

Are headphones safe?

Dear MedLink:

My listening habits are creating a conflict with my roommates’ quieter ways. I sympathize with them and want to buy headphones for my stereo system, but I am concerned about warnings that headphones can be harmful to one’s hearing. Can a couple of hours of listening a day really lead to deafness in the long run? To what extent are headphones safe?

Concerned Music Lover

Dear Concerned:

Like you, I’m an avid music listener. And when my neighbors started complaining about the cacophony coming from my room, my solution was headphones. But until receiving your question, I hadn’t even thought about potential harmful effects of headphone use. So, thanks for raising the issue!

For help in answering this question, I consulted MIT Medical audiologist Christine Rabinowitz, M.A., CCC-A, and a few Web resources. I was surprised to learn that many portable audio players can be turned up as high as 114 decibels. How loud is that? Well, if you’re at the Kendall Square T station when the subway train grinds to a halt, you’re only being exposed to about 90 dB of sound. And just eight hours of exposure to noise that loud could result in permanent hearing damage.

Still, according to Rabinowitz, there is no risk in using headphones to listen to music—any type of music, for any length of time—as long as the music is played at a comfortable listening level. This is about the level of normal conversation, or around 60 dB. To tell if the sound level is too high, ask your roommates if they hear the music “leaking” from your headphones. If so, it’s probably louder than 60 dB. And if the music sounds distorted, if your ears buzz while listening, or if your hearing feels slightly muffled or you have difficulty understanding speech in noisy places after listening, it’s definitely too loud.

Beware, too, of “listening fatigue”—a perception that the music is getting softer the longer you listen. This phenomenon is caused by a decreasing sensitivity to sound levels over time. Most people respond by turning up the volume little by little as they continue to listen. Avoid this “auditory illusion” with frequent listening breaks to “rest” your ears in a quiet environment. Rabinowitz also warns against headphone use with loud background noise levels—for example, if someone is vacuuming in the same room. “In situations like that, you will automatically increase the volume of the music without realizing that the intensity is too much for your ears,” she says.

Thanks again for raising an important issue, and happy listening! —Victoria ’06

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MBTA Cuts Night Owl Bus Line

By Mac Daniel

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority avoided another fare increase, but made several service cuts yesterday, as the board of directors approved a new $1.27 billion operating budget.

The board of the MBTA agreed to raise parking fees 50 cents a day at some subway stations, to cut subways to suburban bus lines, to mix the after-hours Night Owl bus service, to end two Inner Harbor ferry routes, and to work with the lowest number of T employees in six years.

Also, the MBTA’s general manager, Michael H. Mulhern, officially announced his retirement on June 1, after 26 years with the agency. Mulhern, who was emotional at times, said later that his departure was partly influenced by a possible job as a vice president for “a very large international engineering firm,” which he declined to name.

The board immediately named a special advisory committee to look into hiring a successor. A plan to choose a new general manager should be in place by April 7.

Mulhern said he had been “absolutely determined to get this organization through a very difficult financial period” before retiring. “And I think we did that,” he said.

The board passed an operating budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, pledging to maintain core services without imposing another fare increase similar to the systemwide increase two years ago that averaged 25 percent. Still, “fiscal year 2006 will be an extremely difficult and challenging year,” wrote Jonathan R. Davis in the budget summary.

The MBTA’s advisory board, a separate panel with public oversight of the T, also approved the budget. But it did so with four key concerns, all of which officials said were either addressed in the budget or in Thursday’s introduction of Governor Mitt Romney’s 20-year transportation plan, which included state funding for T expansion projects.

The concerns were over expanding the Silver Line into underserved communities, and funding for the Central Artery-Tunnel transit commitment projects, increasing commuter rail parking, and improving service on the Worcester-Framingham line.

Davis said the budget included 6,000 new commuter rail parking spaces, 3,000 on the Greenbush line, and 4,000 others systemwide.

The most controversial cuts appeared to be ending the Night Owl, the weekend late-night bus service that was costing the T $7.53 per rider to run, compared to $1.37 on the average bus route. Starting July 1, the Night Owl’s cost would have gone higher because of a contract that would have paid drivers $55 per hour.

In another move that Capuano described as “a very large, well-considered, thoughtful plan,” the T was expected to end the Night Owl, which served 200 riders systemwide, 3,000 on the Greenbush line, and 4,000 others systemwide.

To balance its budget, the T is also taking $10.5 million from its reserves. Overall operating expenses are expected to increase 5.6 percent under new the budget. The T is predicting that an open advertising contract will result in a $6.5 million decrease in non-fare revenue when hub are opened next week.

As it announced its fare increases, the T also offered new MetroCard options: $9.56 for a single ride, $63.25 for a seven-day pass, and $166.00 for a monthly pass in May 2005; three days, $16.25 for a six-day pass, $39.75 for a 10-day pass, and $99.00 for a monthly pass in June 2005; or $166.00 for a monthly pass in July 2005.

To prevent drunken driving, “We need an alternative, and we in government need to find alternatives for them, not just hope that they don’t make a tragic mistake,” he told the board.

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It has been an extraordinarily successful effort, he said, when talking about the new budget into shape, said Transportation Secretary Daniel A. Grabkauskas, who chairs the T board of directors. “Anywhere else in this country that you look, fares have been raised, sometimes twice in a year, core services cut pretty dramatically, so balancing this year really has been a Herculean effort.”

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

Indoor Monthly Parking

$154*/month

UA Student Committee on Educational Policy
“Monk’s Mood: A Performance Meditation on the Life and Music of Thelonious Monk” was performed last Saturday, March 12. The final performances will be held this Thursday through Sunday in Kresge Little Theatre.

(above, left) Associate professor Thomas F. DeFrantz taps to his left. (above, right) DeFrantz pauses at the end of a skit.

Photography by Omari Stephens

A Meditation on Monk

Sigma Kappa congratulates her newest sisters!

Angela Lai
Angela Wu
Becca Motola-Barnes
Janet Li
Jenny Bartels
Jennifer Kwon
Jessica Lam
Jessica Lee
Jessica Luttkus
Kate Madden
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Kitty Zhou
Leah Dancy

Libby Biszko
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Rachel Longley
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Rita Ciaravino
Sasha Brophy
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Call for Nominations!

2005 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER

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The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a $1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 18, 2005 to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205
cohen@media.mit.edu
Hockfield Advocates Increase in Funding By U.S. for Research

By Kelley Rivoire

The United States risks losing its edge in scientific research if federal funding does not increase, said President Susan Hockfield in an interview with The Financial Times published on March 7, a rare public statement giving a glimpse into her ideas for MIT's future institutional positions.

Hockfield stressed the importance of funding basic research in order to maintain a pipeline of talented researchers. Hockfield said in the interview that she plans to take advantage of her institutional "bully pulpit" position and will travel to Washington to lobby for increased funding of scientific research.

"The flattening of federal funding for research is a serious problem for all of us," Hockfield told The Financial Times. "The effects of slowing the flow of innovation may not be seen for 15 to 20 years, but will be painfully obvious when they do appear. According to the article, federal funding on research and development in sectors unrelated to defense has remained steady or decreased each year since 2002. Hockfield emphasized that without funding, the pool of researchers will dry up. "It's dangerous because the innovative economy has to be fueled by talent," she said. "I grew up in the shadow of Sputnik when everyone thought it was wonderful to be involved in math, science, and engineering. This country needs to be re-inspired."

Furthermore, promising scientists may see struggles for funding as a discouraging factor to pursuing research themselves. "When graduate students see their professors' struggles to get the most worthy research funded, it's hard for them to see any future rewards for themselves," Hockfield said.

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In addition, as fewer international students come to the U.S. to study science, the country must bridge the gap by refocusing attention to education, Hockfield said in the interview.

Hockfield Advocates Increase in Funding By U.S. for Research

This space donated by

The Tech
MIT Men’s Volleyball achieved its 20th win of the season Wednesday against Mount Ida College.

The Engineers, now 20–4 and ranked 11th in the nation, controlled the match throughout with better execution and more talent both offensively and defensively than the other team. As Paul Dill said, “We kept control of the match even though we sometimes let it get a little closer than maybe I would have liked, but I never thought it was out of control.”

The Mustangs of Mount Ida only had seven players dressed, meaning there was only one substitute. They played hard and didn’t embarrass themselves but never stood a chance.

Dill had his best lineup in at the start of the first game, and MIT jumped to an 8–1 lead and were able to coast to a 30–16 win. After a quick start, MIT substituted early and often. “We wanted to get everybody some more playing time … some more positive experience playing out there,” said Dill afterwards.

The second game was a little closer than the first, as the teams played even to a 14–15 score. But MIT’s passing and superb hitting prevailed, led by 37 assists from setter Jordan X. Wan ’06 and 17 kills by middle-hitter Robert M. McAndrew ’05.

A moment of slapstick comedy lightened up the second game when a Mount Ida serve hit an unsuspecting teammate at the net in the back of the head. Both teams clearly laughed under their breaths before play continued.

The third game was another close one early on as MIT trailed 12–15 and later 20–21. But a big block by Robert G. Aspell ’06 and Praveen Pamidimukkala ’08 put MIT ahead for good.

The win continues what has been an extremely successful season for MIT volleyball. The latest coach’s poll puts them at 11th in the country, and Tuesday’s win is unlikely to change that. They have reached 20 wins for the season and are currently one game behind conference leaders Rivier, whom MIT defeated a few weeks ago.

When asked what the biggest factor has been in their success, Coach Dill said, “the ability of the guys to keep their poise out there and stay confident when they’re playing. The work ethic and the discipline they’ve displayed this season have just been tremendous.”

Individually, McAndrew is second in the nation in kills per game and Pamidimukkala is fourth in hitting percentage.

MIT plays this week at Emmanuel and Harvard. They finish up their regular season at home against Johnson and Wales April 2 in DuPont.