Cashier’s Office Moves To NE49 from Infinite

By Hanhan Wang

The Cashier’s Office closed its office in the Infinite in the final week and will re-open tomorrow in its new location in NE49-3077, according to a press release from the Controller’s Accounting Office.

A community lounge will replace the spot left behind along the Infinite. A committee of students, designers, and Student Life Programs administrators are working to design the new lounge. Although designs are not yet final, the new lounge promises to provide an open community space, said Claude R. Canizares, chair of the Committee for Review of Space Planning.

The future of the infamous super-sized dollar bill painted around the old Cashier’s Office entrance has not yet been determined, Canizares said.

The committee originally planned to replace the giant dollar with a glass wall, but architectural difficulties may hinder these plans. “If the dollar bill is removed, there will be efforts to memorialize it,” Canizares said.

Before the end of September, demolition will begin on the space.

The MIT Police presented the colors at Fenway Park Tuesday night. They were the first group associated with an educational institution ever to present the colors at Fenway.

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Greenblatt Selected As Interim Exec. VP

By Marie Y. Thibault

Sherwin Greenblatt ’62 has been named MIT’s interim executive vice president for finance and administration, taking over for departing Executive Vice President John R. Curry.

President Susan Hockfield, who appointed Greenblatt last week, said in an e-mail that he “brings a wealth of experience in running a complex operation, and, importantly, one in which innovation is a core value.”

Greenblatt, currently director of MIT’s Venture Mentoring Service, was also president of Bose Corporation for 15 years. He obtained both bachelor’s and master’s degrees at MIT before becoming the first employee hired by Professor Emeritus Amar G. Bose ’51 at his company.

The Venture Mentoring Service is a group of volunteers with experience with start-up companies who help members of the MIT community interested in starting their own businesses.

On the third day of his new job, Greenblatt said that when he learned he was being offered the position, he was “totally shocked.”

After the news settled in, however, he said that he realized it would be a way for him to make “a really neat experience with start-up companies... who help members of the MIT community interested in starting their own businesses.”

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A Tasty Education in Boston Dining

By Kathy Lin

Kathy Lin '05 shares some of her favorite local destinations in a five-part series this week. Part 4 of 5.

I love food, so I naturally love restaurant-hunting in any new city I go to. As you start your search for your favorite restaurants, give these a try.

Chinese Food

Taiwan Cafe
34 Oxford Street
Boston, MA 02111

Although Royal East and Mary Chang’s offer temptingly close Chinese food, the best is not surprisingly in Chinatown. Try out Taiwan Cafe, which is frequented by many MIT students. The food is authentic and cheap. I’ve spent $12 for a filling meal for two. Tip included. Grab your nearest Chinese speaker before you go, though, as their English is not so good. (And if you look vaguely Asian, expect to be spoken to in Chinese.)

After your meal, head one block west on Beach Street and up the stairs at the corner to the juice bar, which makes fresh smoothie-like bubble tea.

Thai Food

Smile Thai Cafe
16-18 Eliot Street 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138

I love Thai restaurants, most of which are quite tasty and classy. My favorite in Smile Thai Cafe in Harvard Square, where the wait staff is exceptionally friendly. I always try dishes named after the restaurant, and the Smile Noodles lived up to all my hopes. Also try the Fried Ice Cream and the Thai Iced Coffee.

The Weather

Today: Clear skies, 83ºF (28ºC)
Tonight: Mild, 69ºF (20ºC)
Tomorrow: Warm, 83ºF (28ºC)

Details, Page 2

Random Hall residents Valerie A. Yorgan ’08, Tucker A. Jones ’07, and Jeffrey S. Walden ’08 make liquid nitrogen ice cream for the 2005 Orientation East Party Sunday night.

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**FDA Approves Drug Meant To Help Short Children Grow**

By Lawrence M. Fisher

The Food and Drug Administration gave approval Wednesday to In-elixer, the first new drug in 38 years for the treatment of abnormally short stature in children.

It is the first drug approved for Terisca, a biotechnology company based in Brisbane, Calif., whose stock rose 21.2 percent on the news, closing at $11.31.

In clinical studies submitted to the FDA, Inelixer prompted growth in children who did not respond to injections of growth hormone, the stan- dard treatment. An estimated 300,000 of the United States have the specific condition for which the FDA approved the drug, although some doctors expect Inelixer to be more broadly prescribed to children with less severe growth abnormalities.

The drug’s price has not yet been set, but it is expected to be similar to that for growth hormone, which is roughly $20,000 per year. In a clinical trial, patients given the drug through twice-a-day injections grew an aver- age of about an inch more a year than patients not given the treatment.

**Fires Lead France to Assess Unsafe Buildings in Paris**

By Katrin Bennhold

Under public pressure after two fires killed 24 African immigrants here in the last week, the French authorities pushed ahead Wednesday with an inventory of the city’s most dilapidated buildings, preparing to evacuate and demolish others.

Last Friday, a fire killed 17 people, mostly immigrants from Mali who had been waiting for years for public housing. After the second blaze, which raged in seven squatters Monday night, the police stepped up efforts to gather information on living conditions in about 100 illegally occupied buildings and several hundred other rundown structures in Paris.

On Tuesday, the interior minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, proposed the evacu- ation of all squatters, drawing sharp criticism from leftist opponents who called plans to evacuate unrealistic given the current housing shortage. They also called it an attempt to link the issue to the controversy over illegal immigration.

**After Decades, Nations Focus On Rights Abuses**

By Larry Rohter

After years of inertia, governments throughout Latin America have re- cently shown surprising vigor in prosecuting human rights violations that occurred, in some cases, 30 years ago or more. Chile, for instance, has offered reparations to torture victims and forced the army to apologize for its abuses, while the Supreme Court in Argentina in June declared unconstitutional a past amnesty laws from the 1980s.

Why this sudden activity? After all, reopening issues like forced dis- appearances, torture and state-sanctioned murder is painful for any so- ciety and hardly as popular with voters as, say, creating jobs or building roads or schools.

What is surprising now is not a coincidence, or like some kind of flower that has blossomed overnight,” argues Víctor Abramovich of the Center for Legal and Social Studies here, one of Argentina’s lead- ing human rights groups. “It’s a regional process that has taken years to mature.”

Indeed, even nations that for years did their utmost to forget the past have now been confronting incidents once thought safely buried. In Uru- guay, a large-scale operation, led by Tahar Vattequi, took power for the first time in March and a former president, Juan Maria Bordaberry, was indicted three months later for the 1976 murders of two political leaders.

**1000 Iraqis Die in Stampede Over Rumors of Suicide Bomb**

By Robert F. Worth

More than 950 people were killed and hundreds injured Wednesday morning when rumors of a suicide bomber provoked a frenzied stamp- ede in a procession of Shiite pil- grims as they crossed a bridge in northern Baghdad, government and hospital officials said.

Most of the dead were crushed or suffocated, witnesses said, but many also drowned after falling or jumping into the Tigris River after the panick- ing crowd broke through the bridge’s railings. The disaster was by far the greatest one-day loss of life since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

Fear had begun spreading in the crowd an hour earlier, after a group of insurgents fired rockets and mort- ars near the gold-domed Shiite shrine where the pilgrims were head- ing, killing at least seven people and wounding dozens.

Insurgents have often struck at Shiite religious processions in the past. But the stampede appeared to have started with unfounded rumors of a suicide belt on the bridge.

The pilgrims were among a throng of hundreds of thousands of mostly poor Shiites from northern Baghdad and the surrounding area who had converged on the shrine bearing col- ored banners and symbolic coffins to mark the anniversary of the death of Imam Musa al-Kazim, one of Shiite Islam’s holiest figures.

“We were all chanting slogans about Imam Musa, and then people started shouting about a suicide bomber,” Waled Hamoodi Abdul al-Radha said as he lay on a cot at Kindi Hospital with a chest injury, after removing an oxygen mask to speak. “They started crashing into each other; no one would look back or give a hand to help the ones who had fallen. People started running on top of each other, and everyone was trying to save himself.”

In the aftermath of the stam- pede, with some pilgrims continuing their procession, black-clad women knelt over dead bodies in the streets of Kazimiyah, the Shiite neighbor- hood where Imam al-Kazim’s shrine is situated. On the bridge itself, hun- dreds of the victims’ sandals and shoes had been swept into piles.

Local hospitals were over- whelmed, their floors lined with dead bodies, including many women and children, some drenched in river wa- ter. Relatives of the victims screamed in and out, some of them pulling up the sheets on dozens of bodies until they recognized one, and then burst- ing into tears of grief.

There were reports in Baghdad’s hospitals that some pilgrims had been dosed with a mass poisoning. But Ministry officials said they could not confirm any poisonings. Shiite Mus- lims believe that Imam al-Kazim was poisoned by agents of Harun al-Rashid, the Sassi caliph, in the late eighth century, and history often merges with the present among relig- ious pilgrims here.

The Iraqi authorities had blocked off roads to car traffic throughout northern Baghdad starting Tuesday evening, anticipating attacks on the hundreds of thousands of Shiites who were converging on the capital.

The bridge where the stampede took place marks an especially fragile fault line, linking Kazimiyah with Azimiyah, a Sunni area that has long been a stronghold of support for Saddam Hussein and the insur- gency.

**Floods in New Orleans May Be Deadliest U.S. Disaster Ever**

By Robert D. McFadden

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Chaos gripped New Orleans on Wednesday as looters ran wild, food and water supplies dwindled, bodies floated in the floodwaters, the Superdome became a prison and the mayor said that New Orleans was a nightmarish scene.

“Minimum, hundreds. Most likely, thousands.”

As survivors struggled with a di-500,000, mostly below sea level and crammed into teepees along the Mississippi River running through it and Lake Pontchar- train to the north, was a nightmarish waterworld that Iraqis said would have to be abandoned while the levees are repaired and the city drained. He called for a “total evacuation,” adding:

“We have to. The city will not be func- tional for two or three months.”

**Weather**

Finally, Some Quiet Weather

By Michael J. Ring

While the Gulf Coast region will unfortunately feel the devastating ef- fects of Hurricane Katrina for months, the storm’s remnants have now fully left. Instead of the tropical conditions that damaged the state’s western part of New Orleans, a city of 500,000, mostly below sea level and crammed into teepees along the Mississippi River running through it and Lake Pontchartrain to the north, was a nightmarish waterworld that Iraqis said would have to be abandoned while the levees are repaired and the city drained. He called for a “total evacuation,” adding:

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**Extended Forecast**

**Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Thursday, September 1, 2005**
Bolton Seeks Changes to U.N. Millennium Development Goals

By Warren Hoge

John R. Bolton, the American ambassador here, came under fire and ridicule from some 2000 to discuss the work of the program identified as efforts to eliminate the momentum behind the millennium development goals and to wriggle free of the commitments they have made,” said the ambassador, short an African vacation to return to his office on Wednesday, said the goals were too costly and would do little to help the U.N. mission.

“I don’t think anyone can remove them from the general public’s perception of how we are moving ahead with the goals. The world is counting on us,” said Bolton. “I’m not sure the other membership really wants to see the millennium development goals dropped, or expanded, or dropped from the document.”

Bolton, who met with Annan, said the process was being treated wrongly as portrayed with a past American commitments to support the millennium summit meeting in 2000.

He said what the United States objected to was the way the U.N. secretariat later codified those goals into numerical targets and timetables, like the pledge that countries commit to one percent of gross national product to development assistance. “Quite some time ago the president said unequivocally we support the development goals in the millennium declaration,” Bolton told reporters. “Now that’s different from the goals that were written into the 2000 text, which is secretarial.”

There is no backing away by the United States of its commitment to support for the millennium summit declaration.

Bolton also disputed charges that the agency or the U.N. was taking any action to discuss the September 11 ringleader as a potential terrorist. “I know of nothing,” he said. Bolton pointed out that last year at School No.1 in Beslan, Russia’s spetsnaz, said that the memories of the Beslan plant an agent last year inside the special services had managed to stretch out the Pentagon since it would suggest that the Russian special services had managed to penetrate the U.S. military’s defenses, like the pledge that countries commit to one percent of gross national product to development assistance.

By C.J. Chivers

The Russian government has been accused of providing the intelligence program targeted to the Pentagon since it would suggest that the Russian special services had managed to penetrate the U.S. military’s defenses, like the pledge that countries commit to one percent of gross national product to development assistance.

The officers, Capt. Scott J. Phillips, an intelligence officer, and Capt. Michael L. van Zandt, a military lawyer, testified in the Pentagon since it would suggest that the Russian special services had managed to penetrate the U.S. military’s defenses, like the pledge that countries commit to one percent of gross national product to development assistance.

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A table in Monday’s paper listing SafeRide stops omitted four stops and incorrectly listed five others. Stops at 487 Commonwealth Avenue (Phi Sigma Kappa) on the Boston West route, 450 Beacon Street (Psi Lambda Phi) on the Boston East route, Simmons Hall on the Cambridge East route, and NW30 on the Cambridge East route should have been included. The stop on the Cambridge West route after NW30 (Edgerton) should have been Building N51, not Building N5. The West Garage stop on the Cambridge West route and the 790 Main Street stop on the Cambridge East route should have been listed as request only. The stop on the Boston West route after 64 Bay State Road (Theta Xi) should have been 99 Bay State Rd. (Lambda Chi Alpha), not 111 Bay State Rd. (Student House). The stop at 28 The Fenway was incorrectly listed as Fenway House; it should have been Sigma Nu. A corrected SafeRide schedule appears on page 10. The LCA and N51 stops are incorrectly listed on the Parking and Transportation Office’s SafeRide schedule.
CAMPUS LIFE

In the Parlance of Our Times

Top Ten Complaints or Things You’ll See in The Tech Every Week

By Zachary Ozer

Dear Freshmen,

By now, I’m sure you’re tired of people telling you how going to a prestigious university provides you with “a wonderful opportunity” and how college is such “an amazing experience.” From the outside, it seems like MIT is the greatest collection of brainpower since Raphael brought together Pomeroy and Plato in “School of Athens.” And yet, that doesn’t seem to make people here feel happy. In reality, they always seem miserable. Everyone on the outside doesn’t see that our fingers are calloused from endless typing, we walk with our faces to the floor, and we sweep fewest total hours than the entire population of the Falkland Islands. And still, we come back about $200. Given that the only other option for digital notetaking is a $1,500 tablet PC, this may be a result of the fact that any achievements made in the landscaping of campus are often undone by the effects of winter. Irrespective, I know that I look forward to the first real day of spring, when campus breaks out of its cold, mechanical mold and blossoms into a bright and vivacious place. This effect may be minimized this year, as the PDSI construction project has paved over the Eastman Court and will turn the Atomic Courtyard into a most of this green space will eventually be restored, but probably not before I graduate.

5. Apathy on Campus

What happened to Aimée Smith? No, seriously, I don’t know. Speaking of apathy on campus, I don’t care about writing this article anymore, but I do hope that this has been a springboard of ideas for those who want to improve things. I’ll be here for a while longer, so if there’s something you think is worth complain- ing about, drop me a line. My inbox is always empty; my door is always open. I’m looking forward to a miserably wonderful two years with all of you.

4. MIT Cable — The Least Trusted Name in Entertainment

This space donated by

Mass. Ave.

Cough.

Cough.

Man.

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Well, what are you waiting for? Come fight me. Winner gets my jacket.

JERK! IT'S MY JACKET!

Attacking from behind...not surprising coming from a back-stabber. But...

Not enough.

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER
The concert began with a brilliantly virtuoso performance of Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini," which features passages of astonishing technical complexity. The soloist, Garrick Ohlsson, brought a depth of emotion and clarity of technique to each phrase, allowing the listeners to appreciate the beauty and richness of the composition.

The Rachmaninoff was followed by Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade," a piece depicting the life of the legendary figure at the court of the Sultan of Baghdad. The orchestra, conducted by Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, delivered an energetic and passionate performance. The solos, which were well-received, showcased the virtuosity of the musicians involved.

The concert concluded with Degas' "Degas at Harvard," an exhibition of Edgar Degas' pastel on canvas drawings. The selection of works included "The Rehearsal," "Chanteuse de Café," "After the Bath, Woman with a Towel," and "Little Dancer, Age Fourteen." The exhibition spanned a range of themes, from paintings and drawings to pastel and monotype. Each piece was a testament to Degas' ability to capture the fleeting moments of daily life with a sense of immediacy and unstructured spontaneity.

Degas, a latecomer this summer, is renowned for his paintings and drawings. His technique and style are characterized by a combination of variegated shades and means that do not look composed. Indeed, though every tilt of the head and every bend of the figure carry an internal energy, no one could have found a way to spell out the finished sculptures, but they sparkle with their own organic energy. Made to help Degas in the study of movements, these figures carry an air of immediacy and unstructured spontaneity. Among the other works also on view are monotypes and photographs, two of which were created by the Harvard-featured BSO. Exploded and employed more frequently when his eye-sight started to deteriorate. Viewed side by side, the rest of the works, they round off an incredible collection that allows visitors a glimpse of Degas' unconvencional oeuvre, his endless experiments with new media, and the experiences of the BSO to Symphony Hall starting the first week of October. They are always a delight to hear, as if time has stopped for them eternally.

"Degas at Harvard" is on view through November 27. A series of gallery talks, lectures, and family activities are associated with the exhibition. Visit artmuseum.harvard.edu for details.

**Orchestra Continues Tradition of Excellence at Tanglewood Summer Home**

By Jacqueline O'Conor

A mong the rolling hills and placid lakes of western Massachusetts, the Boston Symphony Orchestra makes its summer home at the Tanglewood performing arts center. The 210-acre campus houses a large performance shed, a smaller performance shed, several concert halls, and a variety of outdoor stages. The Boston Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, has long been associated with the Tanglewood Festival, which is the longest-running musical festival in the United States.

The 2015 summer season at Tanglewood included a diverse selection of musical performances, ranging from classical to contemporary. The orchestra presented a variety of concerts, including performances of major works by composers such as Beethoven, Brahms, and Mahler. The orchestra also featured concerts dedicated to the music of Latin America and South Asia, showcasing the diversity of the repertoire.

In addition to the concerts, the Tanglewood festival included a variety of educational programs and outreach initiatives. These programs aimed to make classical music accessible to a wider audience, both in terms of performance and education. Tanglewood offers a variety of opportunities for music students and educators, including workshops, Masterclasses, and residencies.

The Tanglewood Music Center, located on the campus of the festival, is home to the Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer training program. The Tanglewood Music Center offers a comprehensive training program for young musicians, providing them with the opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra and receive coaching and mentorship from experienced musicians.

Overall, the 2015 summer season at Tanglewood was a testament to the orchestra's commitment to excellence and its dedication to making classical music accessible to a wide range of audiences. The orchestra's summer home at Tanglewood continues to be a beloved destination for music lovers from around the world.
Dining at The Dive: Where the Noodles are Cheap and The Milieu is Free

By Monica Byrne

The Dive
44 Beach Street
Boston, MA 02111

There are only two places here worth visiting, but boy, are they worth visiting: Rod Thai and the Juice Bar. For what you get, the prices are criminally low. Most plates are $5–$7, with nothing above $9. I get my favorite dish, Pad See You; my friend gets Crispy Basil Chicken. The workers are kind, patient, and helpful. Free tea and free water are available off to the side, with paper cups to drink from. While the food is prepared, we head to the other end of The Dive to get drinks at the Juice Bar, staffed by two cheerful young women. Overhead on laminated, sherbet-colored sheets of paper are the vast offerings in Times New Roman font: pearl tea, watermelon juice, avocado milkshake, azuki milk. Everything is delicious.

Back at our table, piles of steaming noodles have appeared. The plastic plates are rugged, squeaky-clean, chipped, and edged with earth-tone floral patterns borrowed from the 70s, like plates you used as a kid in your clubhouse. The bottoms are warped from years of hot dish water, so you can spin them like saucers on the tabletop. My friend notes they would make excellent Frisbees. It’s all part of the charm.

We tuck in. My friend’s nose begins to run continuously as he shovels in his three-pepper dish. My food is delicious; chewy, flat noodles drenched in rich brown sauce, tossed with fresh vegetables, egg jetsam, and beef strips (no imitation beef here). We eat until my friend groans “there’s fire in my stomach,” and I groan “there’s cement in my stomach,” and we both lean back in silent stupor to give our tummies a chance to digest. This would be an appropriate time to mention that the girls’ bathroom is painted a charming shade of Pepto-Bismol pink.

Yet, I hesitate to relax; this is a dangerous moment. The Dive is staffed by militant custodians who sometimes take the plate out from under you even when you’re still picking at it. They mop continuously, between the tables and under the chairs. You have to protect your plate because when they’re not mopping, they’re scanning for signs of inactivity. But at a certain point, no matter how tasty the food is, you just can’t eat any more. I have known certain Paul Bunyans who can scarf an entire plate of food at The Dive, but I can’t claim to be one of them. We leave our plates and wadded-up napkins at our table, where the faithful custodians swoop upon them, barely waiting for us to vacate.

Happily, we stumble out into the warm Chinatown night with stuffed bellies and still-stuffed wallets. The Dive is a perfect stop for hungry students who are looking for great ambience that is its own thing; not some chi-chi candlelit décor. Now, get there quick before Rod Thai and the Juice Bar realize how cool they are … or before everyone else does.
Gaggle Elects 25 Tech Management Board Elections

Face page 1

In a misheber belief that
what's seen is what they apply
to people who push words around
rather than dream them up. Austin
* ‘06, a Senior Councilor, PCC chairs
the "LONGBEST" LIFELONG!

TURE (200f; geofag; also, a very nice, a company (of women). One of
the major arisms involved in the 13th c. as a distinctive collective referencing
to particular animals or people. I would imagine that
they have been to have been actually adopted in
use. 1587 Hains, Anth. 2, 553. A phallic symbol of a man
seen in pictures, possibly of an old man, (or
on the face of a man). The symbol was
used in the 13th century as a hair ornament,
and on the face of a man. 1587 Hains, Anth. 2, 553. A phallic symbol of a man
seen in pictures, possibly of an old man, (or
on the face of a man). The symbol was
used in the 13th century as a hair ornament,
and on the face of a man. 1587 Hains, Anth. 2, 553.

Noc. 4, 2004

Remember, remember, the fourth of November,
which in England is known as "Guy Fawkes
on paper plates!" Chung "05 estimated early from the
cave, never to return. On this day, the one
before the U.S. holiday known as "Washington's Birthday," Kim "06 announced
the mantle of chairman.

Dec. 4, 2004

One month to the day later, his gaff was
depicted throughout the Inside,
into the gravel and mature of
journalism. A bad day for a bad
editor in chief. "Why?" Kathy Lin
"04 claimed victim.

"Tang/Westgate"

"Building 56/66"

"22 Magazine"

"69 Chestnut (pika)

Dining, from Page 1

Italian
Magazzino's 4 Columbia St.
Boston, MA 02116 617.342.0455
http://www.maggianos.com/

Magazzino's serves the best
restaurant in the city. I’ve had
enjoying the same as Mom’s (or),
and it does so consistently at reasonable
price. The Garlic Shrimp and Shells
are particularly popular. One
favorite is Chicken Marsala, Plus,
and, extra bonus, it’s all at
almost every top T, and
more. Quick Bites
Boston Market
54 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston, MA 02215 617.236.4447
http://www.bostonmarket.com/

"a also gives a guy and
love, and so should you! If
you haven’t been to Boston Market before, imagine
Thanksgiving dinner — but better
than a special, it’s an event!

SafeRide Routes and Schedule

Each route leaves its Mass. Ave. starting location twice an hour from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. (3:30 p.m.
Thursday through Saturday). The vans leave every half hour from 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (Sunday through Wednesday), and every hour after half hour from 11 p.m. on. A version of this table
printed Monday contained errors, which are listed on page 4. * Request-only stop.
Offer expires 9/18/05. Offer available to new residential customers located in Comcast serviceable areas who have not subscribed to the service selected within the past 120 days. Former accounts must be in good standing. Offers may not be combined with other offers or discounts and is limited to a single outlet. After promotional offer period, published rate card for Comcast High-Speed Internet applies. Subscription to Standard Cable required to receive promotional offer. Offer does not include Standard Cable. Certain services are available separately or as part of other levels of service. Subscription to HBO is required to receive HBO ON DEMAND. ON DEMAND programs are limited. Comcast High-Speed Internet speed comparisons for downloads only for Comcast 6.0 compared to 56K dial-up 768K DSL. Comcast speeds range from 4.0 Mbps to 8.0 Mbps download speed (maximum upload speed from 384 Kbps to 768 Kbps respectively.) Comcast High-Speed Internet speed received and respective pricing will vary depending upon the level of video service if any received. Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. Many factors affect download speeds. All services: Basic service subscription is required to receive other levels of service. Upon service termination, all Comcast provided equipment must be returned to Comcast in good condition. Additional fees may apply for equipment, installation, taxes, and franchise fees. Prices are subject to change. Services are subject to terms and conditions of Comcast’s subscriber agreements and other applicable terms and conditions. Restriction apply. © 2005 Home Box Office, Inc. All rights reserved. HBO®, Curb Your Enthusiasm®, EntourageSM, The Sopranos® and HBO On Demand® are service marks of Home box office, Inc.
Fencing Beginners Encouraged to Test Their Steel

By Brian Chase

There are many sights and sounds that can be heard in the evenings in the Du Pont Gymnasium. One of these is the sound of metal on metal as the Fencing team trains. The Fencing team has been around for decades, as established a sport at MIT as Crew or Baseball. Despite this long history, however, the fencing squad is a very small team that recruits half its members from the ranks of students who have never fenced before.

Eleven of 17 women’s team members last year and 8 out of 16 men’s fencing team members joined the squad with no experience, said Lea Yu ’06, Women’s Fencing team captain. It makes sense when you consider the current Men’s Fencing team captain came in with no experience. In fact, the current Men’s Fencing team captain came in with no experience. In some ways, beginners to fencing have an advantage, as they have not acquired bad habits that must be untaught, as Yu learned from personal experience.

Fencing includes three different sports, which are three different sounds and styles of swordplay: In Epee, any part of the opponent’s body is a target, so matches are slow, and it’s important to try to countermove your opponent to isolate a weakness. In Sabre, the target is above the waist, and if both fencers hit each other, the person who begins to strike first is given the point. So matches are quick affairs of two people running and striking each other, each trying to be faster than the other.

In Foil, the target is the torso, and as in Sabre, the first strike is favored, so it plays a faster than Epee, though not as fast as Sabre. In a match at a meet, two teams of three people fence nine times, where each member fences against each opposing member, and the team winning the most points wins the match.

Unlike some other sports, Fencing requires active tryouts at the beginning of the year to fill its roster. However, people who have never fenced before don’t need to worry. "What we look for during tryouts is more the commitment, the dedication than anything else. We don’t actually fence during tryouts … what we see is whether or not you come everyday, whether or not you display the effort,” Yu said.

The team has hard member cuts; however, there are only 20 spots for women and men, and Yu reports that about 30 people try out every year, including returning members. If a student thinks he might be interested in trying fencing, the squad recommends showing up to try outs rather than trying to join after taking the PE class.

While the fencing team willingly takes people on the team with no experience, it expects commitment from them as well. Fencing practices weekdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and as Yu reported, attendance is expected.

There are good reasons for this required practice time. First among them is the development of the specialized group of muscles on which fencing relies. Yu said, “Fencing has a lot of really weird muscles … you don’t really have a symmetric body if you fence.” Practices include footwork and individual lessons to get fences into shape, she added. They also help ensure that every team member receives personalized coaching tips from either Head Coach Jarek Kosiuszko or one of the assistant coaches.

The MIT Fencing Club is typically quite competitive, both within their conference, and on a national level where for the last several years the squad has placed about 20th out of 33 squads competing. Yu said. Additionally, the Women’s Sabre has deep roots at MIT, as one of its first national champions. Caroline Pescott, started fencing here. And as long as the there are eager beginners ready to join, the team can likely keep that trend going.

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