Voter Turnout Is Up
In a Clean Election
For Senate, ’09 Class
By Kirtana Raja
Undergraduate Association elections for the 2009 Class Council and UA Senate concluded last week with voter turnout that, while low, was higher than last year’s. This year, 29.9 percent voted, an increase from 20.2 percent in 2004 and 24.2 percent in 2003. The newly-elected members of the Class of 2009 Council are President Akash A. Chandrasekar, Vice President Samuel H. Poon, Secretary Deepika Singh, Treasurer Alexander G. Alford, Social Chairs Jeremy E. Smith and Tina P. Srivastava, and Publicity Chairs TingTing Luo and Wendy Wen.

Also elected were 27 UA Senate representatives of all the campus dormitories, off-campus students, and fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. Though voter turnout was at a recent high, the average UA Senator was elected by only 12 percent of the population voting in his or her constituency.

A total of 1,227 votes were cast for 47 official and 439 distinct written-in candidates. The election was one of the cleanest in recent memory, with no major foul play during campaigning said UA Election Commissioner Tiffany L. Seto ’06.

Longer election timeline for 2005
Seto said that this year’s increased voter turnout could be a result of a longer period of time for candidates to collect petition signatures. In previous years, freshmen class council and residential candidate must have petitioned for a meeting in early September before they then had to submit signatures a week later.

This year, candidates were given an extra week to gather signatures, with petition packets due Sept. 20. More than half of the official candidates signed up after the initial deadline was extended, however.

More official candidates ran this year than in previous years, with every dormitory and FSLG having at least one official candidate. Seto said that having more official candidates could also have contributed to the increase in voter turnout.

On Sept. 12, the council sent a policy order for an endowment tax to a special committee including the nine councillors and certain city staff, according to the City of Cambridge Web site. A hike in property taxes last year put pressure on the City Council to take action.

The universities are not operating in a way intended for non-profit organizations, said Timothy J. Toomey Jr., a Cambridge city councillor and Massachusetts state representative.

“Universities are not non-profit anymore,” Toomey said. “Harvard has an endowment of 25 billion dollars — anyone with an endowment of 25 billion dollars should be paying a little more in taxes.” While MIT’s endowment is not as big, “they should still be paying more” to meet their “fair share,” Toomey said.

If the policy order passes through the council, the city could establish a “home rule petition” that the Massachusetts State legislature would have to grant for the endowment tax to be levied.

MIT not completely not-for-profit
MIT does pay taxes on its non-academic, investment and commercial property, said Sarah E. Gallop, co-director of government and community relations. In fact, “MIT is the largest taxpayer in Cambridge.”


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MIT paid $12.3 million in property taxes for the 2004 fiscal year.
White House Counsel Named As Supreme Court Nominee

By Elisabeth Bumiller
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

President Bush on Monday nominated Harriet E. Miers, the deliberative, inconspicuous White House counsel and a longtime member of his inner circle, as his choice to replace Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the Supreme Court.

Miers, 60, the first woman to be president of the State Bar of Texas, is a former Democrat who became a leader in the state’s moderate Repub-

lican legal establishment. She has never been a judge, and her positions on abortion and other contentious social issues are largely unknown.

“In selecting a nominee, I’ve sought to find an American of grace, judgment and unwavering devotion to the Constitution and laws of our country,” Bush said in a hastily ar-

ranged 8:01 a.m. televised appearance

with Miers in the Oval Office. “Harriet Miers is just such a per-

son.

Miers, in one of her rare appear-

ances speaking before television cameras, said that over her three decades of legal practice and commu-

nity service, “I have always had a
great respect and admiration for the

genus that inspired our Constitution and our system of government.”

She added, in a signal to conser-

vatives that she would not attempt to inject policy into her rulings, that “if confirmed, I recognize that I will have a tremendous responsibility to

keep our judicial system strong, and to help ensure that the courts meet their obligations to strictly apply the laws and the Constitution.”

The president’s announcement came a little more than an hour be-

fore the formal ceremony making John G. Roberts Jr., the 17th chief

justice of the United States on the very first day of the court’s full term.

With O’Connor setting aside her retirement until a replacement is confirmed, the president and Senate Republicans uged a speedy hearing for Miers, who, if approved, could be sworn in by December.

White House officials cast Miers as a “mainstream lady” with an impressive record of accomplish-

ment in Texas, while Bush’s oppo-

nents called her a presidential crony who was a leader in the search for a Supreme Court nominee that ended with herself.

Shiites and Kurds Adopt Rules To Ensure Constitution Passes

By Robert F. Worth
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Iraq’s Shiite and Kurdish leaders quietly adopted new rules over the weekend that will make it virtually impossible for the constitution to fail in the coming national referendum.

The move prompted Sunni Ar-

abs and a range of independent po-

itical figures to complain that the vote was being fudged.

Some Sunni leaders who have been organizing a campaign to vote down the proposed constitution said they might now boycott the refer-

endum on Oct. 15. Other political leaders also criticized angrily, saying

the change would seriously damage the vote’s credibility.

Under the new rules, the consti-

tution will fail only if two-thirds of all registered voters — rather than
two-thirds of all those actually cast-

ing ballots — reject it in at least three of the 18 provinces.

The change, adopted during an unannounced vote in parliament on Sunday afternoon, effectively raises the bar for those who oppose the constitution. Given that fewer than 60 percent of the eligible voters cast ballots in the January elections, the chanc-

es that two-thirds will both show up at the polls and vote against the document in three provinces would appear to be close to nil.

“This is a mockery of democ-

racy, a mockery of law,” said Adnan al-Janabi, a secular Sunni repre-

sentative and a member of former

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi’s party.

“Many Sunnis have been telling me they didn’t believe in this demo-

cratic process, and now I believe they are vindicated.”

The rule change could prove a serious embarrassment to Ameri-

can officials in Iraq, who have spent recent weeks struggling to persuade the Iraqi political establishment and even trying to broker last-

minute changes that would make it more palatable to them.

There was some confusion on the change. One member of Iraq’s electoral commission said the commission had already made a similar ruling last month, while an

other member denied that. But Ali

Dahgh, a moderate Shiite member of parliament, said there had been no public ruling until Sunday’s vote.

Dahagh also said the United Na-

tions had expressed dissatisfaction on Monday with the rule change, and that the National Assembly would meet Tuesday to reconsider

2nd Indictment Issued Against Delay

By Philip Shenon
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

A grand jury in Texas issued a second indictment Monday against former Rep. Tom DeLay, accusing the Texas Republican and two aides of money-laundering in a $1.9 million transaction that prosecutors have described as a scheme to solicit contributions to a political action committee in local election campaigns.

DeLay was not named in the indictment last week on related conspiracy charges.

His defense lawyers had gone to court earlier in the day Monday to ask that the conspiracy charges be immediately dismissed on technical grounds; the lawyers argued that the conspiracy laws cited in the in-

dictment did not apply to the 2002 contributions cited in the original

indictment.

Within hours, DeLay and his aides had been indicted on the new money-laundering charges, which can carry a prison sentence of up to five years.

European Union Officials Oppose New Xbox 360’s Games

By Seth Schiesel and Matt Richtel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

European Union officials have sought to punish the country for its refusal to allow an international investigation into the bloody crackdown of an uprising in May in Andi-

jon, the capital of Uzbekistan.

Moscow has also said it would cut economic ties with Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, as a result of two other events. The latest was the Andijon crackdown to the 25 members of the European Union.

The sanctions also ban travel by Uzbek officials directly involved in the use of force and ammunition.

President Bush approved the sanctions last week on related conspiracy charges.

The decision followed months of diplomatic tension over Uzbeki-

nian authorities’ treatment of their own citizens, particularly those who sought to rise up against President Islam Karimov, who has been in power for 18 years.

The sanctions ban travel to the Greek alphabet. Hurricane season lasts until Nov. 30.

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, October 4, 2005

EXTENDED FORECAST

Tuesday: Cloudy morning, clearing to highs in the mid 70°F (24°C)

Wednesday: Morning fog clearing to highs in the mid 70°F (24°C)

Wednesday Night: Some clouds, lows near 60°F (16°C)

Thursday: Chance of afternoon showers with highs in the low 70°F (22°C)

200°N 90°W 150°E 40°N

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Good Luck Finding a Proper Coat

By Tim Whitcomb

October has come to New England (as well as to the rest of the world). I suppose it has brought along a spurt of gorgeous weather that belies the
tickle fall and weary winter ahead of us. Temperatures over the past few days have been pleasant, with temperatures near 70°F (21°C) every day and falling to about 50°F (10°C) at night. This should continue over the next few days as the region continues to be dominated by a ridge of high pressure aloft that should keep things cool at night. The end of the week.

Current forecasts indicate that a system currently affecting the West Coast will move through over the Rocky Mountains and deepen slightly, bringing a cold front with it that will result in possibly heavy precipitation over the weekend. For the short-term outlook, though, it appears to be a continuation of the past few days — some fog and clouds in the morning clearing way to clear
day with highs in the 70’s (23°C). The threat of precipitation is small, and with the first forecast of rain coming in on Thursday.

For those interested in tracking Hurricane Center has named Tropi-
cal Storm Stan, and it is expected to make landfall in Mexico as a hurricane on Wednesday night. The National Hurricane Center and Vincent da Vinci should be used before they turn to the Greek alphabet. Hurricane season lasts until Nov. 30.

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Real Estate Slowdown Spreads to Other, Fast-Growing Markets

By David Leonhardt

October 4, 2005

upset medical dogma by discovering microbes that might produce ulcers and acid, believing stomach acid caused ulcers. When the two began their research, doctors could heal ulcers with drugs that blocked the production of gastric acid, believing stomach acid caused ulcers. But the ulcers often relapsed because the bacteria remained to peritonitis.

In its citation, the Nobel committee said. In its citation, the Nobel committee said.

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Opinion

Letters To The Editor

By Peter A. Shuman

Dear President Hochfield,

What does MIT owe the world? In your May 6 inaugural address, you boldly announced a major research commitment to address the world's energy problems, creating the Energy Research Council (ERC) to advise you on energy-related issues. This week, the ERC turned to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which consisted of how MIT could best address our energy problems.

Three items stand out.

First, it is vital to increase MIT's share of research into energy-related technologies and sciences. We should be in the lead here, period. Second, MIT should itself be a laboratory for clean energy and efficient building technologies. Our campuses should be the model for the energy consumption and management of neighborhoods and office complexes. We must show that clean energy technology is available, affordable, and practical in the real world.

Third, and most importantly, MIT must continue to confront the reality that technologies alone do not solve human problems. Consider these facts: engineers have already developed wind energy technologies that are economically competitive with conventional electricity generation in many (windy) markets. Hybrid auto technology is available. Geothermal home heating is cheap ($3,000 a home), but rarely, if ever, installed for neighborhoods. Electricity generation in many (windy) markets. Consider these facts: engineers have already developed wind energy technologies that are economically competitive with conventional electricity generation in many (windy) markets. Hybrid auto technology is available. Geothermal home heating is cheap ($3,000 a home), but rarely, if ever, installed for neighborhoods. Electricity generation in many (windy) markets. Consider these facts: engineers have already developed wind energy technologies that are economically competitive with conventional electricity generation in many (windy) markets. Hybrid auto technology is available. Geothermal home heating is cheap ($3,000 a home), but rarely, if ever, installed for neighborhoods. Electricity generation in many (windy) markets.

Our campus should be the model for other campuses, towns and municipalities, neighborhoods and office complexes.

MIT has always been at the forefront of technological research. That is what we are known for and have been known for since the late nineteenth century. But the history of technology has shown us that technology alone is not enough to address the tangle of techno-social problems. More than ever, we need the insight, conviction, and collective efforts of social psychologists; sociologists; anthropologists; historians of science, technology, energy, and the environment; management experts; policy analysts; clergymen, and others with knowledge of the social world.

President Hochfield, what would be truly innovative, and demonstrate MIT's commitment to addressing the seriousness of our current energy crisis, would be to engage all of our engineers and scientists together with our colleagues in the social sciences and the humanities to think beyond the laboratory.

Now is our collective opportunity to do something — to develop a program that exploits the better machine. To do that will take unprecedented collaboration.

Does MIT owe the world? The best engineers and science research and education on the planet? Certainly. Leadership in addressing the most pressing challenges of the 21st century? You bet. But most of all, we owe the world our respect for its complexity. We owe our appreciation that people, politics, psychology, and ethics are as much needed as new ideas and innovation. We owe the world that the answers of our solutions will be to think beyond the laboratory.

Is MIT up to the task? Sincerely,
Peter A. Shuman '03 is a PhD candidate in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society and is a former president of the Undergraduate Association.

Letters to the editor are welcome at letters@the-tech.mit.edu. E-mail the the editor at tech@the-tech.mit.edu.
Grad Students Can’t Live in Broken Promises

Hector Hernandez

Graduate students at MIT are intimately involved in the discovery, promotion, and implementation of new disciplines, concepts, and trends in engineering and science. The development of practical, sensible, engineer- ing and the discovery of new crucial concepts with which to understand the physical world around us makes working in any laboratory at MIT an exciting and vital experience for graduate students. One often missed point is that the idea of interdisciplinary cooperation is the other crucial key to the experience that is MIT. This, more than any other idea, is what makes MIT such a unique and exciting place. The coffee shops, pubs, and benches on campus that graduate students from diverse disciplines are the melting pot of ideas and future collaborations.

If the graduate student community at MIT is to continue to thrive and develop, MIT needs to review and define its commitment to the development and fostering of a diverse graduate student community. This topic has been addressed in one form or another by the administration and graduate students at MIT over the last half century. There have been reports to the president and the faculty that reiterate the importance of graduate students to MIT. The Lewis Committee Report, presented to the faculty of MIT in 1949, was the first comprehen- sive report that tried to unify MIT by propos- ing the development of a long-term plan that took into consideration the development and sustainability of both academic and residential communities. This report iterates the need to develop a graduate student community inclusive of not just graduate students, but also of faculty, administra- tion, and staff. The proposals presented in the Lewis Committee Report have guided Institute planning and development since.

MIT has implemented an academic portion of this report well. We have risen to be one of the leading research and development institu- tions not only in America, but also in the world. This is clear when we look at the composition of the graduate student body. MIT boasts that 36 percent of its graduates are international stu- dents. This is consistent with the cross-pollination and dissemination of scientific and cultural ideas. MIT has also be- gun to make strides in the fostering of groups that are under-repre- sented in science. One can only speculate on the benefit MIT has reaped from the purpose- ful systematic implementation of programs to foster the academic community.

Yet the idea of residential community, presented as so critical to the whole development of the graduate student, has been all but ignored.

If MIT is going to ameliorate the situation, we need to change how we look at the problem of graduate student retention. If we have not heard me say, “the definition of insanity is to keep on doing the same thing and expect a different result.” There has been a lack of commitment to use its vital resources, such as the School of Architecture and Planning, School of Engineering, to design a vibrant, environ- mental friendly, and socially active physical space for the residential community. This report iterates the need to develop such a proj- ect. The development of the academic and re- search campus has taken precedence over other projects. The mismanagement of building proj- ect budgets in the last couple of years has fur- ther4ther the situation.

Now, we are being told that the under- graduate dorms need to be refurbished, and that graduate students are going to lose Ash- down. We believe that the graduate community needs to seriously think about what they would lose in Ashdown. It is not just about beds. The replacement of a dorm by a new dorm would barely equal the space for graduate students. The bigger loss would be the social and community structure that is Ashdown. Ashdown in 1939, Ashdown was the only space on campus for graduate students. Ask any graduate student and you will quickly become aware of the precious memories they have of their time there.

For this and other reasons, we need to change how we look at the problem of graduate student retention. If we have not heard me say, “the definition of insanity is to keep on doing the same thing and expect a different result.” There has been a lack of commitment to use its vital resources, such as the School of Architecture and Planning, School of Engineering, to design a vibrant, environmental friendly, and socially active physical space for the residential community. This report iterates the need to develop such a project. Such a project would not only allow the Institute to develop and spearhead a project such as the Energy Research Council. These working relationships can only happen at a place where the members of the commu- nity have the opportunity to engage with each other. If MIT is going to ameliorate the situation, it must address this.

Hector H. Hernandez is a former Graduate student and current graduate student representative to the Faculty Policy Committee.
"I work with a lot of smart people."

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www.marsandco.com
We begin today with a vocabulary lesson, perhaps your first (e)MIT talk. The word "ambivalent" means having feelings in opposite directions. If you love Seattle but hate rain, you might feel ambivalent about going there. Many people think ambivalence is the same as apathy, but that's not the case at all. Why do I mention this? Apart from giving a Public Service Announcement to my fellow engineers (we could all use a little verbal skill), I want to be understood when I say "I feel ambivalent about the army."

It's all because of those damn recruitment ads on TV and the radio, and buses, and probably blimps. There are so many it's getting harder and harder to ignore them - as I always do. Well, not always. I considered joining the Army, many years ago, when I thought it would be nice not to have to pay off thousands of dollars of loans after graduating. What kept me from enlisting was the nagging suspicion that given my luck, the year after I joined I'd get some crazy president who would just randomly start a war. Nor, really. Ask anyone who knew me in high school, and that's exactly what I said; it seemed so laughable, then... but now... Well, I don't have to tell you what's going on.

Every time I see a recruitment ad now I am filled with contradictory feelings (i.e., ambivalence). I feel angry and at a tinge of loathing for the Army (or the Army Reserves, which is pretty much the same thing these days): they're trying to trick people, young naive people, into joining the army. They make it look all cool and fun or lay a guilt trip on ya' if you don't do it.

"But, I think it's time to be a man;" one young soldier says, implying that the only way to manhood is through violence, pain, and what- ever else comes after basic training. What's the big deal? The big deal is that if you're tricked into buying a pair of pants, you don't get shot at for it (unless they're really ugly or you live in the wrong neighborhood).

And yet! I have nothing but the highest re- spect for the soldiers themselves. My father was a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars, when he worked for the Veteran's Administration. I met countless other soldiers, whose kids I played with and everything. Our folks in Iraq are doing all kinds of unpleasant things just because their country told them to, stuff I sure don't want to do. I appreciate their sacrifices, try to think of what they're doing (WTF are we doing in Iraq anyway?), don't mean I hate them for doing it. It's not like they want to be there either.

Here, we have the heart of the matter. I watch those ads, and at the same time I get two different feelings. I go "You suck, army!" at the same time I go "You rock, soldiers!" Strange. Kind of like, "Gosh I hate math, but I sure love those equations. But what do I do about it? What can I do about it?" Nothing, that's just the way things are. The army will continue to need people, and people (especially poor and underprivileged people) will continue to enlist. Maybe if I cam- paigned and wrote letters and protested, some- thing might change, but hey, I've got classes to go to and problem sets to finish. Why, then, go through all this? Simply for you, dear reader. You've had time to adjust to the semester already, bought your books and supplies by now, are starting to realize just how much work you're in for. There's always a chance you might not have seen these recruit- ment ads, ubiquitous as they are. Or you might not have given them much thought. But at the risk of bringing everybody down, there are people dying out there, many of them our peo- ple, folks like you, me, and your high school buddies. I think they're worth thinking about. How do you feel about the army? How do you feel about our soldiers? How do you feel about Iraq? As "Star Wars" reminds us, it can be wise to examine your own feelings. After all, even ambivalent feelings are better than none at all.

By Christina Kang

Say What

Chin-Chin Yao '07 and Betty Y. Yang '07 soak up the sun on one of the docks of the Esplanade while studying for classes.

Imminent Collapse

To Be Or Not To Be All You Can Be?

By Bill Andrews

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"But, I think it's time to be a man;" one young soldier says, implying that the only way to manhood is through violence, pain, and what-ever else comes after basic training. What's the big deal? The big deal is that if you're tricked into buying a pair of pants, you don't get shot at for it (unless they're really ugly or you live in the wrong neighborhood).

And yet! I have nothing but the highest re- spect for the soldiers themselves. My father was a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars, when he worked for the Veteran's Administration. I met countless other soldiers, whose kids I played with and everything. Our folks in Iraq are doing all kinds of unpleasant things just because their country told them to, stuff I sure don't want to do. I appreciate their sacrifices, try to think of what they're doing (WTF are we doing in Iraq anyway?), don't mean I hate them for doing it. It's not like they want to be there either.

Here, we have the heart of the matter. I watch those ads, and at the same time I get two different feelings. I go "You suck, army!" at the same time I go "You rock, soldiers!" Strange. Kind of like, "Gosh I hate math, but I sure love those equations. But what do I do about it? What can I do about it?" Nothing, that's just the way things are. The army will continue to need people, and people (especially poor and underprivileged people) will continue to enlist. Maybe if I cam- paigned and wrote letters and protested, some- thing might change, but hey, I've got classes to go to and problem sets to finish. Why, then, go through all this? Simply for you, dear reader. You've had time to adjust to the semester already, bought your books and supplies by now, are starting to realize just how much work you're in for. There's always a chance you might not have seen these recruit- ment ads, ubiquitous as they are. Or you might not have given them much thought. But at the risk of bringing everybody down, there are people dying out there, many of them our peo- ple, folks like you, me, and your high school buddies. I think they're worth thinking about. How do you feel about the army? How do you feel about our soldiers? How do you feel about Iraq? As "Star Wars" reminds us, it can be wise to examine your own feelings. After all, even ambivalent feelings are better than none at all.
Trio

Dedicated to my boy, Don Adams...

ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor

Okay, this is where he lives. I’ll pick you up later. Look cute, and have fun!

I hate you.

Me and my big mouth. Now I’m stuck on one of Angie’s stupid blind dates. I have no idea who this guy is... what he’s like...

Well, I have two choices: 1) take my chances with some orange man I’ve never met... or 2) turn around, take a cab home, and take my chances with an angry Angie later.

Hmm...

Angie can bench press me. Option 1 it is.

Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta

FVCKED

by Colin Dillard

WE HATE IT!
FoxTrot
by Bill Amend
Ask a MedLink

Oh, my aching shins!

Dear MedLink: I need information about shin splints. I know I often get them when I run, but what are they exactly, what causes them, and how can I avoid that annoying, throbbing pain in my shins? —Runner In Distress

Dear Runner: Geeez, don’t remind me how shin splints feel! As active as most MIT students are, shin splints are a common occurrence on campus; I know I’ve had more than my share! Although shin splints are neither serious nor permanent, it’s a very annoying and debilitating injury, so I was happy to get your question and learn more about this problem.

I spoke with MIT Medical nurse practitioner Anthony M. Pasqualone, M.S.N., NP-C, who specializes in orthopedic medicine. According to Pasqualone, shin splints may be caused by sudden increases in mileage, walking uphill, walking faster than normal, jumping, running stairs, or just covering too much distance—in other words, just about any repetitive, weight-bearing physical activity!

Pain from shin splints can occur on the inside, outside, or middle of your shin, Pasqualone explains. “If you have pain in the middle or inside of your shin,” he explains, “you probably need better arch support.” In addition to sturdy, good quality shoes, he suggests trying an over-the-counter, arch-support shoe insert. “Pain on the outside of the shin is usually due to overuse and inflammation of the anterior tibialis muscle, which flexes your foot upward,” Pasqualone continues. “This type of pain usually results from the repetitive flexing of the muscle. It’s like the arm cramp you’d get if you did hundreds and hundreds of biceps curls.”

A good warm-up before your workout will go a long way toward preventing shin splints, Pasqualone told me. “Be sure to stretch your calf muscles and Achilles tendons real well. If you have the problem while running or walking, try warming up more and don’t increase your speed too quickly. If your shins hurt after a work-out, you should gently massage them, and then ice them.”

While these measures should help prevent many instances of shin splints, we’re all going to overdo it sometimes. And at those times, Pasqualone says, ‘ice and massage will help, but rest is often the best treatment.’” So sit back, relax, work on those problem sets, and watch your shin splints disappear! —Zach ‘07

Do you have a question?

Submit questions by:
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anonymous online form: http://web.mit.edu/medlinks/www
 campus mail: Ask A MedLink, E23-493

We can’t respond individually, but we’ll answer as many questions as we can in this space. And you can always talk with a MedLink in person; see web.mit.edu/medlinks/www/ to find the MedLink(s) in your living group.

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Want to use the software on Athena? Wondered what sorts of cool things you can do? In this column, part 3 of 4 of our introductory columns, we discuss lockers on Athena, and the things you can find in them.

What are lockers?

Lockers organize files and software on Athena and allow them to be accessed more easily. They eliminate the need to use long pathnames like /afs/sipb.mit.edu/contrib/admin and allow you to quickly run programs without needing to know exactly where they are located.

Question: How do I use a locker?

Answer: The most common way to use a locker is to use the add command. This will attach the locker and make it available through /afs/lockernamem and add the locker to your path. For example, to run the mplplayer program in the outland locker, type:

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athena% add outland
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You can put a line in the .environment file in your home directory to add lockers automatically when you log in. For example:

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add 6.001 sipb outland gnu
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The second way to use a locker is the attach command. This will make a locker accessible at /afs/lockernamem the same way add does, but will not add the locker to your path.

If you want to use a locker without attaching it, you can use ~lockernamem to refer to it in a path. If you wanted to browse the 6.001 locker, for example, you could type

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athena% cd ~6.001
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Cambridge Considers Other Tax Plans

Endowment, from Page 1

year, according to the 2004 Town Gown report.

In addition to the property tax, MIT gives Cambridge a “payment in lieu of taxes” (PILOT) of about $1.2 million, increasing by 2.5 percent each year, according to the report. The current PILOT amount was negotiated in 2004.

Traditionally, “there is an understanding and acceptance by some schools that they rely on their host municipalities for some services,” Gallop said. “We rely on Cambridge for the fire department, for fire safety.” Out of this understanding came PILOT, which allows universities to share the burden of city costs.

Even with the property taxes that MIT pays and with money from the PILOT program, “if the property were assessed at the fair market value, they would pay a far greater amount,” Toomey said.

“Harvard made a 19 percent return on their endowment last year,” Toomey said. “All we’re asking is for one percent of that.”

The policy order states that the city would be allowed “to implement an endowment surcharge to be assessed at the rate of 1 percent of the annual interest in excess of $1 million dollars earned on any endowment of any organization which has more than five percent of its total property in Cambridge listed as tax exempt.”

“This is the very first step for a City Council interested in the possibility of a home rule petition,” Gallop said.

Endowment tax not only solution

Other policy orders were also passed to the property tax committee. “There are several different pieces that have been referred to the committee, and we’re trying to prepare a response or a package of responses for the state legislature to try to make local taxes more equitable,” said Brian Murphy, a Cambridge city councillor and chairman of the Special Committee on Property Taxes.

“We’re trying to figure out what we can do to make the system work better,” he said. “Over the years, there has been a great deal of frustration with the failure of non-profits to pay what is their fair share of the burden in the communities,” he said.

In Massachusetts, “we don’t have the local option sales tax or local option income tax, so we have to rely on property taxes that exclude the non-profits,” he said.

A solution would be to “have a local option payroll tax because that would go after the universities in their role as employers rather than as universities,” Murphy said.

Additionally, the PILOT agreements may be renegotiated, and Cambridge needs a more predictable source of income from the universities that “doesn’t go offline,” Murphy said.

The new push for more taxes does not represent a drift in community-university relations, Murphy said.

“This just came out of last year’s property tax revaluation” and as property taxes have increased, the universities should see their share increase accordingly, he said.

“I think the city and the universities have very good relations and this is just an area where there’s some disagreement,” Murphy said.

“Cambridge does benefit greatly from the universities, and the universities benefit greatly from the city,” Murphy said. “Many students stay and eventually become residents,” he said.
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Some FSILG-Affiliated Students
In Dorms Change Constituency

Elections, from Page 1

did not have designated affiliations. The number of students with two affiliations, so not all of them were given the opportunity to change their designation, Seto said. This number was small, Seto said.

Seto said that this is the cleanest election that she has ever witnessed during her experience on the UA Election Commission. “There was not any major foul play in campaigning that was brought to my attention,” Seto said. The only instance of incorrect campaigning was when two write-in candidates sent e-mail to all of the house mailing lists to campaign for votes, she said.

This year, 1,160 students voted online while 87 students chose to submit their votes on a paper ballot. Compared to both 2004 and 2003 UA elections, the number of online voters was significantly higher, while the number of paper ballots was lower.

To see the breakdown of vote distributions in the election’s preferences in the online voting system, go to the Web site http://web.mit.edu/elections/Fall05/results.shtml.

Marissa Hogt contributed to the reporting of this story.

By Living Group:

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UA Voting Statistics

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Some choose to vote with FSILGs. Another change to this year’s election was that students with both FSILG and dormitory affiliations were allowed to choose a constituency, evenly divided between dormitories and FSILGs, then give the opportunity to change their designation.

Sivek said that few people chose to change their designation, and while McCormick Hall did lose one senator from the new rules, any other small changes would not have affected constituency sizes; however, they “arguably would have made a difference” in the close IFC senator elections.

Though complete statistics were unavailable on the number of students changing their designation, Sivek said that most of those who did change their designation chose to vote by FSILG affiliation rather than by residence. Including those students who were assigned a designation by default, 230 students were able to vote by residence and 317 by affiliation.

While problems the election commission typically encounters with obtaining accurate residence information were mitigated by the later deadlines, obtaining the list of students with two affiliations from all FSILGs caused some difficulties, Sivek said.

Seto said that she was able to easily compile this information for all of the sororities and IILGs, as well as for all of the freshman pledges for the fraternities. However, only 12 fraternities provided complete responses regarding upperclass brothers with two affiliations, so not all of them were given the opportunity to change their designated designation. Seto said. This number was small, Sivek said.

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*Includes students affiliated with a fraternity, sorority, or independent living group who live in dormitories and who either chose or were randomly assigned to vote with their affiliation.

Some choose to vote with FSILGs. Another change to this year’s election was that students with both FSILG and dormitory affiliations were allowed to choose a constituency, evenly divided between dormitories and FSILGs, then give the opportunity to change their designation.

Sivek said that few people chose to change their designation, and while McCormick Hall did lose one senator from the new rules, any other small changes would not have affected constituency sizes; however, they “arguably would have made a difference” in the close IFC senator elections.

Though complete statistics were unavailable on the number of students changing their designation, Sivek said that most of those who did change their designation chose to vote by FSILG affiliation rather than by residence. Including those students who were assigned a designation by default, 230 students were able to vote by residence and 317 by affiliation.

While problems the election commission typically encounters with obtaining accurate residence information were mitigated by the later deadlines, obtaining the list of students with two affiliations from all FSILGs caused some difficulties, Sivek said.

Seto said that she was able to easily compile this information for all of the sororities and IILGs, as well as for all of the freshman pledges for the fraternities. However, only 12 fraternities provided complete responses regarding upperclass brothers with two affiliations, so not all of them were given the opportunity to change their designated designation. Seto said. This number was small, Sivek said.

Seto said that this is the cleanest election that she has ever witnessed during her experience on the UA Election Commission. “There was not any major foul play in campaigning that was brought to my attention,” Seto said. The only instance of incorrect campaigning was when two write-in candidates sent e-mail to all of the house mailing lists to campaign for votes, she said.

This year, 1,160 students voted online while 87 students chose to submit their votes on a paper ballot. Compared to both 2004 and 2003 UA elections, the number of online voters was significantly higher, while the number of paper ballots was lower.

To see the breakdown of vote distributions in the election’s preferences in the online voting system, go to the Web site http://web.mit.edu/elections/Fall05/results.shtml.

Marissa Hogt contributed to the reporting of this story.

By Living Group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Group</th>
<th>Number voting</th>
<th>Percent of those eligible voting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraternities*</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sororities*</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living Groups*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-campus</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bexley</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton-Conner</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Campus</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacGregor</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormick</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New House</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next House</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Random Hall</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior House</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simmons Hall</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Sophomores</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>466</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women's Volleyball Loses Heartbreaker to Eastern

BY TRAVIS JOHNSON
Field Hockey

The two final games were much in the mold of the third tie, as neither team had a clear advantage. Avis-tin Zimmerman '06 coordinated the blocking and offense as MIT kept a small edge throughout both the fourth and fifth games. There were crucial errors and Eastern's relentless attacks cost MIT the lead in both of those games. The fourth game ended with an Eagle hit followed by a MIT miss. Tied 13-13 in the fifth game, Engineer defense watched as an Eagle serve land between them. Eastern then closed the 16-14 gap on two well-executed plays. Dill summed up the game well, saying, "we just played tight on a few critical points, and that cost us. Otherwise, we performed very well.''

MIT split its games Saturday as well, defeating nationally ranked SUNY-Cortland 3-1 but falling to Tufts 2-3. All four were non-conference games; the Engineers now hold record of 17-5 (.4-0 in the NEWMAC).