In this year’s partisan explosion, the presidential elections rocked not only our personal lives, but also the existence of innumerable institutions worldwide. The press in particular has had less than a banner year, as ever more accusations and evidence of political bias (left and right) surfaced in its news coverage of the election.

The irony, of course, is that almost none of us experience national news firsthand; instead, we learn of it third-hand through the media, a particularly tricky stunt when the media covers itself. As a consequence, the press plays a critical role in determining our day to day sense of the communities we live in, town, city, nation or world. More than just conduits of social gossip (The National Enquirer excepted), though, the press makes its own commentary on the issues of the day, speaking with the authority of the well-informed and well-connected.

With all the intense partisanship going around, this has also been the press’s downfall in part, for the editorial page of a newspaper is ultimately inseparable from its news coverage (there are no perfect ethical walls between commentator and reporter). At heart, though, a given newspaper is really a microcosm of the larger community on which it reports, and that makes some bias part and parcel of the game.

At The Tech, our news coverage is only as good as our reporters’ connection with the community. Natural bias in the people writing for The Tech will always lead the paper to cover some stories and not others, and it will change what we think of as possible stories in the first place. We can no more overcome this problem in its entirety than we can change who we are. In other words, there is no ideal objectivity in reporting. There will be no “just the facts” reporting, even if newspapers were to abandon their editorials. At best there can only be pluralism, the notion that by including all possible voices the community is defined by its richness rather than blindspots.

But of course most of us don’t read the paper everyday, and most no one sets aside the time to read contrasting papers, like The Nation and The Weekly Standard, so most of that richness goes unnoticed most of the time. Instead, the communities we are most deeply connected to, the larger community on which it lives in, town, city, nation or world, is only as good as our reporters’ experiences and rich stories, and hence in the newspapers living in our spare time.

As distant as California, Washington politics, Ukrainian elections or the lives of Chinese peasants may seem, the frightening fact of life is that the outside world does not need to ask permission to intrude upon our smallest communities. Critical questions, such as the definition of marriage or whether America will go to war, are decided in distant places, but these problems have a very direct impact on our lives.

The record turnout for the presidential election and the heated emotions preceding it made it clear this year how much national events and government policy do matter to Americans. For a while, we truly identified with the country as a national community, and we sought to influence the country by each of our voices and our votes.

All that attention probably led to renewed criticism of the press and its coverage. Ironically, The Wall Street Journal, the largest national newspaper in the country, has frequently attacked “the media” for its liberal bias. Meanwhile, The New York Times’ ombudsman engaged in extended studies with readers about political bias, navigating about human perception and our built-in mental filtering mechanisms.

Rather than a sign of decay, though, all that wailing about biased news is actually a sign of health in the national community, and hence in the newspapers living within it. Newspapers, or the press of any type, survive on what people are saying, thinking and doing every day of the year, and a new voice with a new opinion means a new story for tomorrow.

So if you feel ignored or estranged from your community, if you can see a blindspot in society, speak up. The press thrives on the new and the overlooked, and 2004 showed once again that the lives of those whom we would otherwise never come to know can still hold a great, and unexpected, personal significance.

Beckett Sterner
EDITOR IN CHIEF, THE TECH
VOLUME 124

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Cover Credit

From the Editor
People at MIT can be forgiven if, when asked for their opinions on the new president, they think of Susan Hockfield before George Bush.

The fourteen years Charles M. Vest was president of MIT is a long time on many scales, comprising about a tenth of MIT’s entire lifetime or how long it would take to get three quick doctoral degrees.

Selecting a new president for MIT, then, was a momentous decision, choosing a new pilot to guide the Institute through the changing tides of academic research and politics.

Faculty and student committees convened for months before selecting Dr. Susan Hockfield, the provost of Yale University as the new president, pondering what talents were most needed to maintain and develop MIT’s strengths in a new century.

The selection of Hockfield marked a change from the status quo for the MIT presidency. Perhaps the most obvious change is that MIT has a woman as its president for the first time, continuing its recent commitment to women in academia.

The selection of a life scientist as president, however, also affirms MIT’s growing focus on new biological and neurological initiatives such as its Biological Engineering Division, the new Brain and Cognitive Sciences building, and the new Computational and Systems Biology doctoral program.

Finally, Hockfield brings with her four years of experience as dean of graduate students at Yale, a crucial qualification at a time of unprecedented focus on student life at MIT.

So far, however, Hockfield, has remained cautious as president, preferring to carefully learn more about the Institute before announcing any sweeping policy priorities, leaving the future still wide open.

Qualities of the ideal successor

The search for the new president started a year ago when President Charles M. Vest announced in December 2003 that he would be stepping down. The MIT community then began a search for the ideal replacement.

At the beginning of the year, MIT students voiced varied and often contentious views of the desired traits of the next president. At the town hall meetings held by the Student Advisory Group to the Corporation, speakers agreed that student-administration interaction is essential. Students spoke of the importance of having a president that would pay attention to student life and needs.

Students also stated as important the accomplishments of the candidate. Many said that the ability of the future president to command an international presence would help MIT continue to gain prestige in the world.

Students addressed the possibility of a female president with mixed reactions. Although some said that selecting a female or minority president would set an important precedent for women and minorities and for MIT, others like Stephanie S. Cavagnero-Wong ‘06 said that “whoevers best qualified” should get the job.

Speakers also disagreed on whether the president should be an MIT alumnus or faculty member. Some spoke of the benefits of having someone from outside the institution who would be able to provide a new way of looking at policies and events.

Continuing the search

The two committees formed in January to select MIT’s 16th president, the Corporation Committee on the Presidency, and the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Corporation on the President Search, both described as important choosing a president with leadership and management skills and certain fundamental values.

James A. Champy ’63, chair of the Corporation on the Presidency, said that the president should have “a belief in excellence and openness.”

First female president

At the end of August, the MIT Corporation unanimously elected Dr. Susan Hockfield, then Yale University’s provost, as MIT’s 16th president. Her status as a female life scientist clearly announced a change.

“One of my hopes is that by being the first woman president of MIT, there are going to be people around the world who will understand that there will be opportunities open for them that currently may not be there for people who look like them or come from their background. It’s a big, important statement about America” said Hockfield.

Commenting on her field in neuroscience, she said “the sciences and engineering are two parts of the same endeavor. Right now the potential for collaboration between the engineering activities and the

Hockfield, Page 14
2006 brass rat, following complaints from many students about two Greek letters on the ring, meant to symbolize the freshmen on campus policy initiated in the freshmen year of members of the class.

Mar 11: MIT announces an increase in tuition for the 2004-2005 academic year to $30,800, the first year above the thirty-thousand dollar mark. The annual cost of an MIT education rises to $42,230.

Mar 12: MIT mails letters to admitted freshmen, 16 percent of the total who applied to the Class of 2008. Forty-six percent of admitted students are female.

Mar 18: The Financial Transition Plan to help fraternities adjust to the freshmen on campus policy experiences a financial shortfall after confusion about how much money MIT had promised fraternities.


Mar 29: An amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution to ban same-sex marriage and establish civil unions is passed amid national uproar.

Mar 29: Professor of Mathematics Isadore M. Singer is a recipient of the Abel Prize for his work on the index theorem.

APRIL

Apr 5: MIT announces plans to pursue an investigation of allegations of scientific misconduct at Lincoln Laboratory in a missile defense study.

Apr 7: The Graduate Student Council elections are held. Barun Kelley Rivoire

Following a financial crisis that led to salary freezes, layoffs, and a shutdown over the holidays in Dec. 2003, the Institute's financial state is recovering. In February, Provost Robert A. Brown characterized the difficult financial times as "behind us."

With a rise in the endowment and a capital campaign that raised over two billion dollars, the Institute looks forward to financial growth in the near future.

Substantial gains in endowment

MIT's endowment rose 18 percent from $5.1 billion to $5.9 billion in the most recent fiscal year (July 2003 to June 2004), reversing the decline over the previous three years. This increase ranks the Institute as having the fifth largest private university endowment in the United States, said Treasurer Allan S. Bufferd ‘79 in an e-mail.

The endowment this year was "much higher than expected," said Brown. He cited the rebounding economy as the principal reason for the increase.

Referring to a September article in The New York Times, Brown said that MIT’s 18.1 percent gain last year is above the median increase of 17.1 percent for the top 25 endowments in the country. The endowment has "reached the bottom and is going back up," though it will likely take a few years to return to its peak of 6.5 billion dollars in 2000, he said.

The large endowment will "allow us to keep moving forward to improve student life and educational programs," said Brown. A modest rate of financial growth is important for plans ranging from establishing a new undergraduate major in biological engineering to providing assistance to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, he said.

"We are budgeting and planning in our normal mode now, and projecting a conservative growth rate for the endowment," Brown said. The Institute is forward to pay a normal salary reviews and raises, he said.

Campaign for MIT a success

MIT’s most recent capital campaign, an official period designated for contributions, raised more than two billion dollars over a seven-year fundraising campaign, said Barbara G. Stowe, vice president for resource development, at a meeting of the Institute board in November.

The previous campaign, Campaign for the Future, which took place from 1987 to 1992, had a goal of $700 million and raised $710 million, Stowe said.

The goal of the Campaign for MIT, which began in 1997 and was publicly announced in Nov. 1999, was to raise $1.5 billion. When this was achieved in September 2002, the goal was elevated to $2 billion.

The Campaign for MIT had a record 66 percent of funds donated by individuals. In the previous campaigns, from 1987 to 1992, and from 1975 to 1980, only 42 and 37 percent of contributions respectively came from individuals.

The remaining 34 percent of donations in the most recent campaign consisted of 17 percent from corporations, 14 percent from foundations, and three percent from other sources.

"Historically, MIT relied on support from corporations and foundations rather than from alumni," Stowe said. The “donor base has shifted to more like our Ivy League peers,” Stowe said, and MIT has “turned to alumni in unprecedented ways."

Because contributions are often made for specific purposes, certain areas of funding exceeded their goals, while others missed the mark.

The former include faculty chairs, educational projects, and unrestricted funding. The large amount of unrestricted funding will provide MIT President Susan Hockfield with flexibility in her early months as President, said Stowe.

Areas projected to be unsuccessful, as of November 2004, in raising their target funds are scholarships and financial aid, construction and renovations, and undergraduate and graduate student life programs.

Fewer than ten other schools, many of which have larger alumni bases as well as medical and law schools, have completed successful two billion dollar campaigns, Stowe said. Among the universities that have raised $2 billion, MIT has the largest goal to alumni ratio, $20,916, as of November 2004.

MIT also has a relatively small fundraising staff, about 100 people; in comparison, Harvard has around 600, Stowe said.

Stowe hopes the success of the recent campaign will allow the staff to expand, especially as more staff will be needed to keep the more than 6,000 contributors to the campaign updated.

The next capital campaign will likely begin in several years, Stowe said. She anticipates that “it won’t be a quick turnaround,” as there will be some adjustments during the presidential transition.

Funding will continue between campaigns, and Stowe said she hopes to “maintain the momentum” generated by this campaign.

Stowe said that campaigns provide a framework and goals for fundraising, but the “pace and intensity will not change” between campaigns.

MIT aims to raise $250 to $300 million on an annual basis, up from $100 million when the campaign started, Stowe said. She believes that support from alumni will continue to meet the increasing demands for funds, she said.

MIT recovers from tough year

In February, Brown addressed the Fall 2003 budget reductions, which totaled $70 million and were made with the primary intent of preserving academic quality. “Everything is fine,” Brown said.

Brown said in May that although the budget costs caused “uniform pain across the Institute,” the Institute will “move ahead in the next budget year to the same tradition we’ve had.”

The temporary campus shutdown in Dec. 2003 resulted in limited financial savings, vice president for human resources Laura Aukland said in February.

Peter L. Cooper, director of utilities for the department of facilities, said that utilities had calculated an estimate of steam and electric savings during the shutdown. “It’s not a big number,” Cooper said.

Vest said in May that one of the reasons the budget cuts were made so severely and quickly was because the leadership of the Institute was about to change. “We do not want to pass on the problems of budget crisis to a new president, a new team,” Vest said.
MIT Takes Stock of FSILGs

IFC, Panhel Make Changes to Improve Governance, Discipline

Kelley Rivoire

Several years after the administration’s controversial decision to require freshmen to live on campus starting in 2002, MIT has finally begun to assess the long-term impact of the policy on the sustainability of fraternities. A September report by the FSILG task force found significant financial difficulties for fraternities, while sororities were said to be in good shape. Both the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic have made changes to their rush procedures to adapt to the freshmen on campus policy, leading to successful rushes in the past year for both. In general, however, fraternity rush pledge numbers remain far below the previous average.

Both organizations have also initiated organizational changes. Most notably, the IFC’s installment of a new risk management system has led to a decrease in violations of IFC policy.

Task force reports findings

According to a report released this past fall by the FSILG Task Force, FSILGs are an underused educational asset and deserve greater support. Although the report allows for the collapse of the FSILG system within its “envelope of possible futures,” no provision has been made for how to close a FSILG for financial reasons.

The report suggests that fraternities and ILGs in particular have under-valued their houses for many years, trying to price themselves competitively with dormitories. However, the report shows that freshmen regard price as one of the least important factors when choosing whether or not to pledge.

In its report, the task force does recommend that MIT reconsider the freshmen on campus policy, avoid prohibitively expensive renovations needed for their houses. He said that about six FSILGs continued to indicate interest in the proposal, including some currently without houses.

Changes made in IFC rush

IFC rush last fall succeeded both in terms of pledge numbers and lack of rush violations. The IFC also plans to hold a spring rush to further increase fraternity membership.

“In terms of numbers, Rush went really well this year,” said Daniel H. Daneshvar ’05, IFC president at the time. We are “on pace, if not better than previous years,” Daneshvar said. He said that he was pleased with this year’s results and that the fraternity population “should be stable.”

“Rush was earlier in the year,” which made it less stressful for fraternity members, Daneshvar said.

In addition, Daneshvar said this was a “very crucial year in terms of alcohol violations... not a single fraternity member drinking with freshmen” was found, and the IFC rigorously inspected fraternities, he said.

The number of fraternity pledges has been roughly level since the freshmen on campus rule was imposed in 2002, but the number of fraternity members living in fraternities has decreased, which “hurt all houses immensely,” said current IFC President Christopher P. Child.

Fraternities are sustainable now, but “need to increase numbers to prosper,” he said. “In the short term, the numbers probably won’t grow much,” but “long term growth is more likely.”

Each year since the freshmen on campus rule took effect in 2002, “we’ve done rush a little differently,” said IFC risk manager Adam J. P. Child. Fraternities are sustainable now, but “need to increase numbers to prosper,” he said. “In the short term, the numbers probably won’t grow much,” but “long term growth is more likely.”

Each year since the freshmen on campus rule took effect in 2002, “we’ve done rush a little differently,” said IFC risk manager Adam J. P. Child. Fraternities are sustainable now, but “need to increase numbers to prosper,” he said. “In the short term, the numbers probably won’t grow much,” but “long term growth is more likely.”

The IFC will hold spring recruitment to allow people who missed fall rush another chance to join fraternities, said IFC Recruitment Chair Brad W. Schiller ’07 in December.

In the past, fraternities conducted their spring recruitment individually. This year, in an attempt to attract more members, the IFC has facilitated recruitment.

Transition plan scrutinized

MIT’s high hopes for fraternity pledge numbers led to a budget shortfall in the Financial Transition Plan, a program created to help fraternities make ends meet.

Report leads to changes

Following the recommendation of the FSILG task force report, MIT created two new positions to help the FSILG system return to full health.

Stephen D. Immerman, associate dean for student life, took on the job of “transition manager.”

The position holder’s responsibilities include increasing alumni donations, creating a process for communication between students, alumni and MIT, and overseeing the process of any FSILG closures.

Robert V. Ferrara PhD ’67 became director of FSILG alumni relations, with duties including working on an educational grants program to help FSILGs cover operating expenses.

Alumni and students had predominantly positive comments about the task force report, Ferrara said in Sept. 2004.

Immerman also said that a feasibility study was conducted for a capital plan to build new housing on campus for several FSILGs, which could help them adapt to the freshmen on campus policy.

 Theta Delta Chi was not able to start Rush this year with other fraternities. Freshmen were not allowed in their house until after Sept. 19.

Kelley Rivoire

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An appendix to the report detailed the financial impact of moving freshmen on campus under several different scenarios. The numbers show a deficit of $1.8 million for the FSILG system in the first year alone after freshmen moved on campus, easily exceeding the $1.5 million budgeted by MIT under its financial transition plan.

While MIT is seeking to increase
A Healthy Life Gets Easier

MIT Subsidy Helps Graduate Students Afford Health Insurance

Beckett W. Sterner

After a surprise announcement of an initially 60 percent increase in health care premiums in 2003, MIT took a large step towards addressing the cost of living for graduate students last year by deciding to fully subsidize students' insurance premiums.

The decision followed a concern of the cost of campus housing for many graduate students, accelerating a rapid decline in the discretionary spending leaving to students after covering living expenses.

The increasing pinch on students' money led to a strong and vocal protest from graduate students as well as from faculty members, and the subsequent decision to subsidize the premium was one of the Graduate Student Council's biggest achievements last year.

The subsidy provides graduate students supported by assistantships with full health coverage under MIT's individual extended hospital insurance, which cost $1,440 for the 2003-2004 academic year. This resulted in an approximtely eight percent increase in disposable income for most affected students.

Students that are not supported by the Institute saw no change in their insurance costs, and families saw only a small reduction.

Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert said after the announcement that the insurance subsidy is the result of the work of many groups, including "the entire senior structure" and the Graduate Student Council. Both groups were "concerned about the quality of [graduate students'] lives."

Insurance problematic nationwide

From the job market to Medicare to other universities, the often double-digit increase in the cost of providing health care each year has put staying healthy at odds with other priorities.

The problem of how to stem rising premiums remains intractable. The future costs of programs such as Medicare, for example, far exceed those of even other large government plans such as Social Security.

MIT especially has been forced to pick and choose among many goals following the decline of its endowment over the past few years, which led to a salary freeze and budget cuts last year.

MIT Medical created a fairly unique situation for itself in 2003 by drastically overspending a surplus it had accumulated over the past decade.

MIT Medical Director William M. Ketylde said at the time that several factors went in to the stipend increase. Join B. Ab-Sheer G, one of the petition organizers, said in January, 2004, that the primary intent of the petition was to protest the decreasing ability of graduate stuents to afford Cambridge. It is more than a health insurance issue, "it's a cost of living issue," he said.

The Graduate Student Council also picked up the issue as one of its most important that year, and took a leading role in advocating the administration to create a subsidy program.

In specific, following across the board increases in graduate students' expenses in 2003, the GSC created a Cost Of Living Advisory Board, charged with managing the cost of living for students across different administrative offices. Former GSC President R. Erich Caulfield said in March that the board was instrumental in passing the new subsidy.

Ultimately, the cost of the subsidy will come out of Institute and faculty budgets. As part of the agreement, the Institute will only subsidize 45 percent of graduate student tuition, as opposed to the 50 percent planned for after budget cuts. In return, the Institute will pay for health insurance premiums out of its budget.

MIT adds maternity leave policy

Along with the health insurance subsidy, MIT also instituted a maternity leave for its graduate students this spring.

The policy allows for a student to take eight weeks off after giving birth and retain pay for an assistantship as well as on-campus housing and other privileges.

Previously, MIT's policy encouraged students to take a retroactive medical leave applied to the whole term, which would place their jobs and housing in jeopardy.

This type of policy is one of the first in the nation, said Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert said in March. "As far as I know, no other peer institute has anything like this."
City Gets New Tax Stability

Agreement with MIT Helps with Long Term Financial Planning

Marie Y. Thibault

The city of Cambridge and MIT signed an agreement entering both sides into a 40-year payment plan in lieu of property taxes, culminating years of on and off negotiations. The signing on Dec. 3 closed out 2004 and began a new chapter for town-gown relations.

The written agreement puts down on paper what has been a voluntary payment from MIT to Cambridge since 1928. Mayor Michael A. Sullivan praised the written Payment In Lieu Of Taxes agreement as one of the improvements he has seen in town-gown relationships this year, saying it gave greater stability for both sides.

Other dealings between MIT and the city of Cambridge in the past year included proposed streetscape changes and disciplinary hearings for several fraternities and one dormitory.

PILOT agreement negotiated

New guidelines for payments to Cambridge have been installed in the written agreement. In fiscal year 2004, MIT paid the city $1.2 million dollars for tax-exempt property. The new agreement includes a 20 percent increase in the base payment, requiring MIT to pay $1.5 million dollars for fiscal year 2005, and this amount would increase by 2.5 percent every year.

This automatic annual increase was proposed by Councillor Kenneth Galluccio. In a letter to City Manager Robert Healy, Galluccio said that he “proposed the idea of the annual escalator to these agreements to bring more dignity to the ongoing negotiation, and reduce the need for an annual debate, which does not serve the relationship well.”

Another guideline restricts the amount of property MIT can convert to commercial property to tax-exempt property used for educational purposes.

According to the guideline, at most 0.5 percent of the city’s tax base may be lost in a year, and at most 2.5 percent lost over a 10-year period. If MIT exceeds these limits, the property will be taxed for the remainder of the agreement, as if it were taxable commercial property.

Any property that MIT converts will be subject to what the PILOT agreement refers to as a Phase In Period. MIT will pay 100 percent of the tax in the year of its conversion on that property. In the following three years, MIT will pay 66 percent, then 33 percent, and finally zero percent of the tax.

Both guidelines dealing with property conversions settle concerns that the city had about MIT’s future plans.

In a Dec. 3, 2004 letter to the Cambridge City Council, former President Charles M. Vest wrote that Healy had “made clear his concern about the possibility of MIT one day taking this large parcel off the tax rolls to be used for academic purposes,” referring to MIT’s purchase of the Technology Square property in 2001.

Despite its ultimate success, the agreement was slow in arriving and was initially expected to be completed by the spring or summer of 2003. In September, Executive Vice President John R. Curry said that negotiations had progressed interminably in the past year as both parties had sometimes more pressing priorities.

At a Nov. 22, 2004 Cambridge City Council meeting, two measures regarding MIT’s payments were passed. One measure included increasing the monetary amount of each payment that MIT makes to the city. Galluccio said that taxes for city residents have increased a great deal over the past ten years, while MIT and Harvard have not made great changes to the amount of money they give the city in payment. The other measure proposed finding a legal alternative to property tax exemption for large non-profit institutions, such as MIT.

The written PILOT agreement, signed on Dec. 3, 2004, was presented to the Cambridge City Council on Dec. 6, 2004. Vest, in his letter to the City Council, described himself as “pleased... that MIT could provide the City with an enhanced ability to manage its budget because of the predictability inherent in the agreement.”

Varying reactions to PILOT

Galluccio, in a Dec. 16, 2004 letter to Healy printed in The Cambridge Chronicle, described what he thought should be guiding principles in a new agreement with Harvard that included relating the PILOT payments to services provided by the city. Though he proposed the automatic annual increase in PILOT base payments, he wrote that he “disagreed[ed] with the 2.5 percent annual escalator amount in the MIT agreement.” He also wrote that all properties that universities remove from the tax rolls should be subject to taxation. “If they [universities] want our support on reasonable growth, they cannot remove taxable properties from our tax rolls at any time.”

However, since MIT and Harvard own about half of the land in Cambridge, and the university students do not use the Cambridge public school system, the city’s expenditures on education represent a city closer to half Cambridge’s geographic size. MIT and Harvard bring Cambridge other benefits as well, as they are the top two employers in Cambridge, and draw a significant amount of tourism and students who bring money to the city.

Not all city residents were happy with the PILOT agreement, however. Local resident Phyllis Baumann wrote in a letter to The Cambridge Chronicle that “the city manager had bound the city for 40 years and is entirely accountable to anyone.” (The city manager, unlike the councillors, is not directly elected by the city.) She wrote that “it is time to consider legislative changes to limit how much tax-exempt property large, wealthy educational institutions may hold.”

CLC Hearings

In other town-gown relations this year, the Cambridge License Commission reviewed the behavior of three fraternities, Theta Delta Chi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, and Zeta Psi. All were out of the CLC before police reached the original 1.5 billion dollar goal in 2002.

 Limits were imposed on DKE as a result of their serving minors alcohol during freshmen orientation in 2003. The Interfraternity Council Judicial Committee permitted DKE to move back into their house on Aug. 15. The IFC also allowed DKE to actively participate in fraternity rush during the last five days of rush this year.

DKE had been banned from their house until Sept. 17, the end of rush, as the party’s nominee.

Massachusetts Senator John F. Kerry is selected as the party’s nominee.

Aug 15: Fraternity Delta Kappa Epsilon is allowed to move back into their house earlier than originally indicated by sanction. The change of date occurred due to progress made by DKE and logistical considerations.

Aug 26: Yale Provost Susan Hockfield is selected by the MIT Corporation to become the sixteenth MIT president.

Sept 29: The MIT endowment rises eighteen percent to $6 billion, ranking MIT fifth among private universities.

One new FSILG position is created as a result of the report.

Sept 18: The Campaign for MIT reaches the two billion dollar mark after having reached the original 1.5 billion dollar goal in 2002. Limiters were imposed on DKE as a result of their serving minors alcohol during freshmen orientation in 2003. The Interfraternity Council Judicial Committee permitted DKE to move back into their house on Aug. 15. The IFC also allowed DKE to actively participate in fraternity rush during the last five days of rush this year.

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In step with the ever-increasing interdisciplinary nature of science and engineering in the new millennium, MIT instituted a number of new degree programs in the past year, with many focused on integrating computational tools into frontiers such as the biological sciences.

The past year also saw the consolidation of the Department of Ocean Engineering, Course XIII, with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Course II. The merger was made with the intent of forging a stronger, broader single department, though it met significant criticism from faculty members and students in the Department of Ocean Engineering.

Courses II, XIII merge

The merger of the Departments of Mechanical and Ocean Engineering worries students, said Rohan Abeyaratne, head of the merged department. Abeyaratne said he hopes that the proposed undergraduate degree in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering, because of its breadth, “might be attractive to a larger number of students” than the ocean engineering degree has been.

In the coming few years, the current undergraduate ocean engineering subject offerings will be cut by about one half, while the graduate subject offerings will remain unchanged, said Nicholas M. Pfarr, associate head of department of mechanical engineering.

Thomas L. Magnanti, dean of the school of engineering, said in November that the merger was the result of not only low undergraduate enrollment, but also fragility and lack of direction within the department. The department lacks a critical mass of faculty in certain key areas, and this was cause for concern about the future of the course, he said.

The decline took place over much of the last decade. Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Arthur B. Baggeroer ScD ’68, formerly of the department of ocean engineering, remarked that in 1994, there were 22 faculty, but by 2004, there were only 14, with four in administration positions.

Many students and faculty members in Ocean Engineering worried that a merger would harm the identity and visibility of ocean engineering at MIT.

Additional merger provisions created between Magnanti’s August 2004 recommendation and the final approval of the merger helped assuage some of these concerns. Professor Tomasz Wierzbicki, formerly of Course XIII, said in November that he believed that ocean engineering would “lose coherence and identity... In the current provisions, this is a liquidation, and it’s far from the meaning of merger or even acquisition.”

Many students and faculty members in the department also expressed concern not only about the merger, but also about the lack of opportunities to provide feedback.

Magnanti acknowledged that “students could have been more actively engaged” in the process.

The lengthy duration of the process worre on faculty and contributed to the discontent of students, as several canvases of student opinion took place before
FSILGs. From Page 5

terities and independent living groups survive the transition to the freshman dormitory policy.
MIT did not allocate sufficient money to fully fund the program after its first year. In the second year of the program, FSILGs were due $628,000 under the program’s formula, $128,000 more than was projected and requested by the office in 2002, said Frank Council of the Student Life Programs office.

The office’s budget plan had assumed that the total number of empty beds would not increase following the institution of the freshmen on campus policy.
Assistant Dean David N. Rogers, director of FSILGs, defended the budgeting assumption that fraternities would continue to do as well at rush under the new residence system as they did prior to it, but admitted that had the budget assumption been correct, the transition program probably would not have had a budget shortfall.

Students and administrators did not share the same understanding of the commitment MIT made in 2002 to the FOC transition.

Administrators insisted that MIT’s commitment was to spend $1.5 million, not necessarily to fully fund the Transition Plan’s formula.

Daniel H. Daneshvar ’05, president of the Interfraternity Council in 2004, said Panhel’s primary goal is to “embrace the role of P anhel as the largest women’s organization on campus.”

Nikki A. Pfarr ’06 is the new president of P anhel. She wants the organization to earn greater recognition for its efforts on campus.

Key Players

“Not a single fraternity member drinking with freshmen” was found during orientation.

Daniel H. Daneshvar ’05 was president of the Interfraternity Council in 2004, and oversaw the return of Rush to orientation week for the first time since 2002.

Panhel’s primary goal is to “embrace the role of P anhel as the largest women’s organization on campus.”

Nikki A. Pfarr ’06 is the new president of Panhel. She wants the organization to earn greater recognition for its efforts on campus.

The IFC aims for greater unity

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhel aim to increase unity on campus.

The IFC executive committee is focusing on fostering a more cooperative spirit among fraternities and sororities. The IFC has set goals for the coming year.

The IFC has also focused on increasing communication between the risk management teams and the houses. The IFC is working to improve the credibility of the fraternity and sorority members.

Sororities fared well in 2004

Panhel had a successful 2004 spring rush, with increased pledges. The FSILG task force also found sororities in a solid position, as they were unaffected by many of the changes that negatively impacted fraternities since many members do not live in the sorority houses. Panhel hopes to further improve its position through new changes to its council.

In the spring 2004 rush, bids were offered to 122 girls, said Panhel’s primary goal is to “embrace the role of Panhel as the largest women’s organization on campus.”

Nikki A. Pfarr ’06 is the new president of Panhel. She wants the organization to earn greater recognition for its efforts on campus.

NewsFlash

Nov 1: William M. Fischer takes office as the new Associate Dean for Student Discipline.

Nov 2: George W. Bush is reelected to the U.S. presidency. MIT voter turnout is estimated to be 63 percent.

Nov 4: The Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council select a Student Advisory Board to help President Susan Hockfield understand student life issues.

Nov 12: Joshua W. Powell ’06 and 8.01 The Ride win the renamed Ultimate Manifestation of hardkOre competition.

Nikki A. Pfarr ’06 is elected as President of the Interfraternity Council, with Jordan K. Fabyanske as Vice President. The newly elected officers cite their goals for the IFC as unity, credibility, and communication.

Nov 18: Undergraduate Association Vice President Philip A. Vasquez ’05 resigns for personal reasons. Vasquez was involved in the unregistered party at Simmons Hall in October. Janet Zhou ’06 was later voted to fill the position by the UA Senate.

December

Dec 2: The Thirsty Ear pub reopens, following a shutdown in the spring after a manager could not be found.
Bioengineering Major Progresses

Experimental Major Awaits Approval this Spring

MIT graduates often lack experience with how organizations work in the real world.

MIT's sixteen president, Susan Hockfield, takes office.

Dec 6: MIT and the City of Cambridge sign a 40-year formal Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement. Next year, the base pay will be 1.5 million dollars, an increase of 250,000 dollars from the previous year.

Dec 9: Three MIT students are arrested following a party held at the temporary Sigma Alpha Epsilon house located in Allston. SAE faces possible sanctions from the Interfraternity Council.

Dec 10: President Bush nominates Samuel W. Bodman ScD '65, former MIT professor, to be his Secretary of Energy.

Dec 15: MIT admits fewer early action applicants to the Class of 2009 than in previous years due to overenrollment in the Class of 2008.

Dec 26: A tsunami strikes Asia, leaving hundreds of thousands dead. No members of the MIT community are known to have been hurt so far. MIT students raise funds for disaster relief.

Bioengineering is a "whole new discipline" of molecular and quantitative biology.

Academics, from Page 8

The first class to graduate under the BE major likely for 2008

A proposed degree program in Bioengineering was discussed during a faculty meeting in December, with approval expected for early Spring 2005.

The proposed major differs markedly from biomedical engineering programs offered at other universities, which tend to focus more heavily on applications, said Professor of Biological Engineering Roger D. Kamm PhD '77.

Rather, bioengineering is a "whole new discipline" dealing with the molecular and quantitative aspects of biology, said Professor of Biological Engineering Linda G. Griffith.

Kamm said that the discipline of bioengineering has come together in recent years, particularly as a result of an increase in the computational tools available.

The first class to graduate under the BE major would be either the Class of 2008 or the Class of 2009, depending on the official approval date.

Enrollment in the new major may be capped in its early years if more students show interest in the major than the current infrastructure, particularly the laboratory space, can support, Kamm said. The current laboratory space can support about 50 students, he said.

According to a report available on the BE major site, the proposed curriculum includes core subjects in statistical thermodynamics, programming, computation, biomechanics, biological systems, and kinetics and dynamics.

Griffith said that the curriculum has been discussed with members of industry, who have expressed interest in hiring graduates of the MIT program. The BE faculty has been mostly in place since the creation of the BE Division in 1998, Griffith said.

Many strong co-teaching relationships with other departments have already been established, she said.

"Other schools are looking to us for leadership," said Griffith, whose goal is for the MIT program to become the national leader.

SMA-affiliated masters programs

Two masters programs, developed in concordance with and partially funded by the Singapore-MIT Alliance, were approved by the faculty this fall.

A Masters Program in Manufacturing in the Department of Mechanical Engineering was approved by the faculty in November.

According to the Web site, the year-long program is directed towards students with engineering degrees and work experience who are interested in technical and management leadership in manufacturing.

Professor of Mechanical Engineering David E. Hardt PhD '79 said that between 15 and 20 students are expected to enroll in the degree program. The Singapore-MIT Alliance will provide some fellowships for the program, he said.

A masters program in Computation for Design and Optimization was approved by the faculty in December.

Aeronautics and Astronautics Professor Jaime Peraire, who would co-direct the CDO program, said that "computational models have really changed the way we work in every discipline" in the last 30 years, necessitating the development of this degree program. A strong demand exists for students with experience in computation, and this degree program would provide a certification of computational literacy, he said.

Peraire said that the program would start with 25 students and expand to 35 students after three years.

The key courses for the major, developed as part of the SMA program, are already in place. They have been popular with students, Peraire said.

First CSB students enrolled

The Computational and Systems Biology doctoral program welcomed its first students in Fall 2004.

According to the program Web site, the CSB program, with about 80 faculty members from across the Institute, aims to "focus a lot of energy on the creation of the BE Division, and to form interdisciplinary, multi-investigator teams to undertake the systematic analysis of complex biological phenomena.

Research in CSB centers on developing biological devices and formulating computational models for biological systems.

"True progress in understanding complex biological phenomena will require new insights from a systems perspective, using tools and concepts from engineering and computer science," said Bruce Tidor, associate professor of bio-engineering and computer science and chair of the CSB Graduate Program Committee, in an October TechTalk article.

Core subjects for the program include computational and systems biology, molecular biology, and neurobiology, with electives available from ten departments in the Schools of Engineering and Science.

Archaeology degree permanent

The faculty voted in September to make permanent the experimental Materials Science and Engineering Course III-C.S.B. degree in Archaeology and Materials.

Papers on the degree were presented at a meeting of the Interfraternity Council.

The idea for the minor came from an earlier discussion by Reuter and School Professor Thomas A. Kochan. The idea for the minor was to provide a "core of excellence" that led to its unanimous approval by the CUP. Students in the program benefit from UROPs and close contact with faculty, he said.

The new degree program is the "first undergrad major at MIT which purposefully meshes engineering and social sciences," said Architect Heather N. Lehman.

Sloan minor in planning stages

A minor in the Sloan School of Management is in preliminary stages of discussion by Reuter and Sloan School Professor Thomas A. Kochan.

The idea for the minor came after a number of substantial student interest expressed in three surveys taken over the past 11 years and a "broad base of interest from around the Institute," Kochan said.

The minor would aim to teach students how organizations function in the real world, something Kochan said he has heard employers complain that MIT graduates often lack.
Panhel has also restructured its council, maintaining the Executive Board, but eliminating smaller positions such as Social Chair, said Panhel President Nikki A. Pfarr '06, who took office on Jan. 31.

Pfarr said that her primary goals for Panhel were to “take advantage of the fact that sororities are all women’s organizations that face similar challenges,” and “embrace the role of Panhel as the largest women’s organization on campus,” reaching out to unaffiliated women as well.

Pfarr also said that she would like to see Panhel recognized at the same level as the IFC and Undergraduate Association.

**Some IFC violations occurred**

Two fraternities were sanctioned in Apr. 2004, by the IFC. In both cases, organizational probation was imposed on the fraternity, meaning that any additional violation would result in suspension for IFC Judcomm bylaws.

Theta Delta Chi was found to have three violations, including failing to remain alcohol-free until Sept. 13, 2004, the date set by the IFC in response to a previous sanction of probation, said then-IFC Judcomm Chair William R. Fowler '05.

As a result of non-compliance to the previous sanctions, TDC’s organizational probation was extended by one year, until Sept. 13, 2005, Fowler said.

Lambda Chi Alpha was found to have violated IFC risk management policy by having a keg in the house, said Daneshvar. LCA was also found responsible for purchasing alcohol for a minor, Fowler said.

LCA, which had come under previous sanctions for violations of risk management policy, had its probation extended by Judcomm, requiring the fraternity to be “completely dry until May 22, 2005,” Fowler said.

**DKE moves back into house**

The IFC Judcomm and Cambridge Licensing Commission allowed Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity members to move back into their house on Aug. 15, 2004, said DKE Vice President Kurt Josephson '06.

DKE was originally suspended from their house until the end of Rush on Sept. 17 as punishment for holding an unregistered party with alcohol in Aug. 2003. The change in date was a result of good behavior on DKE’s part as well as consideration of logistical matters.

DKE was also permitted to begin rushing on Sept. 13, five days before the end of official fraternity Rush, Josephson said.

As a part of the sanctions, DKE worked closely with David N. Rogers, assistant dean and director of FSILGs to make a comprehensive evaluation of the fraternity, and “made progress quicker than was expected,” Josephson said.

**Mixed year for SAE**

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, two steps away from full membership in the IFC, may have hindered its hopes for full IFC membership and a new house with an end-of-year party that could lead to sanctions.

SAE found a temporary house in Allston and was searching this past fall for a permanent house in Cambridge, said SAE President Joseph P. Carlucci '05 in September, 2004. If SAE succeeds in finding a new residence able to house 20 or 30 people, he said, then the alumni could help finance any empty space until the fraternity could grow to a sustainable size. We “have commitments from alumni” for necessary financial support, he said.

Despite hopes of SAE, however, may have been jeopardized by the arrest of three students after a party held at the Allston house in December.

An investigation underway by the Office of Student Discipline centers around possible violations of IFC risk management policy and underage drinking, said current IFC Judcomm Chair Robert D. Battem '06.

If a hearing is held and SAE is found to have violated IFC rules, sanctions could range from a warning to expulsion, said Fowler '05.

SAE was voted an associate member of the IFC at the end of last spring term, Carlucci said, and had obtained status as a full colony from its national organization. The minimum time for an associate IFC member to become a full member is a year and a half, including several reviews and votes by the IFC Presidents' Council, said Fowler.

Because SAE is an associate member of the IFC rather than a full member, the IFC Presidents’ Council also has the power to expel the fraternity. Child said that the results of any disciplinary hearing “would come into play” in the decision of the Presidents’ Council.

**Vassar St. Renewal Will Continue**

but changes were made to the sanctions because of DKE’s good behavior and the need to provide the house for living before the term started.

Due to an incident at TDC during summer 2003 involving a number of residents throwing bottles and other objects off the roofdeck and swearing at the police, TDC was also placed under sanctions by the CLC. The CLC told the fraternity to work to change their fellow fraternities’ attitudes toward the police and alcohol, but if TDC’s response was unsatisfactory, they would be suspended from their house for 14 days during fraternity rush this year.

Zeta Psi, who faced sanctions because of a Halloween incident with beer bottles being thrown out a window, also was reviewed on Apr. 27. The fraternity should work to “prevent underage drinking,” and stay alcohol-free until the April 27 review, said Richard V. Scali, Executive Officer of the CLC, in April.

Simmons Hall also came before the CLC on Jan. 4, 2005 for a hearing regarding an unregistered party involving underage drinking. By the time this article is printed, the CLC will have made a disciplinary decision based on the hearing.

**Changes to Streetscape**

Construction on MIT’s streetscape is expected to start in 2005, with work planned for Vassar Street, Memorial Drive, and Massachusetts Avenue, as well as construct a pedestrian and bicycle railroad crossing near NW30. MIT has promised Cambridge that it will make improvements to the landscape and look of the streets.

Executive Vice President John R. Curry said that the western side of Vassar Street, separated from the eastern side by Massachusetts Avenue, will become similar to the eastern side, with a path, lamps, and trees. He also said that he expects construction will take about nine months once started.
Students Oppose Summer Housing Plans

Students advise Hockfield

Hockfield, from Page 3

science activities are just remarkable." Hockfield did not comment on what she would focus on in the near future. Instead, she said she hoped to learn from faculty and students through both formal and informal interactions on campus.

Students pleased with selection

The members of the Student Advisory Group, a committee of undergraduate and graduate students who provided the selection committeees with a student perspective of the qualifications of the president, were pleased with the choice.

Through the 90-minute interviews with the finalists for the position, student members were able to see that not only was Hockfield qualified for the job, she also had “a genuine interest in learning about MIT, said Bryan D. Owens ’07, an undergraduate member of the committee.

“She seems to be very adept at being able to work with lots of different people,” he said.

Hockfield voices her views

Hockfield said in an e-mail that it is an enormous honor to serve as MIT’s 16th president. She wrote that she clearly benefited from “the pioneering women and men of [her] generation to take on key roles in the academy... We owe it to the present generation of students, and to subsequent generations, to continue the progress toward what we can truly and proudly call a great meritocracy, on this campus and across the nation.”

Hockfield hopes to build on MIT’s strengths and to use those strengths to steer its path in the future.

“I believe deeply in the strength of communities and the power of ideas that come from the people in those communities,” she wrote.

“My top priority for my tenure is to learn from MIT’s faculty, students, staff, and alumni what they view as the key opportunities and challenges in the years ahead... I began meeting with, listening to, and learning from people who know MIT from the inside. I will continue these meetings in the coming months and years.”

When asked about how important it was for the President of MIT to hold a degree from the institution, Hockfield responded that if she were an insider, it would greatly reduce the amount she has to learn.

“Coming from the outside, I bring a lot of respect for MIT’s great accomplishments and for its extraordinary culture of excellence.”

She wrote that she hopes to preserve MIT’s unique character while guiding the Institute in response “to the changing academic and research environments, so that MIT can retain and expand its leadership in this nation and around the world.”

Hockfield believes that the strength of institutions like MIT lies in its ability to provide environments “where opposing ideas and opinions can be intelligently and thoughtfully discussed.”

“We must maintain MIT’s role and stance as U.S. government decision-making, Hockfield wrote she will do all she can to continue MIT’s role in advancing national policies in science, “keeping a strong voice for the good that comes from solid investments in, and sound policies for, higher education and research.”

Goals of Student Advisory Board

The success of last year’s Student Advisory Group, which helped the MIT Corporation search for the new president, initiated the development of a new Student Advisory Board to President-elect Dr. Susan Hockfield.

The purpose of the board, composed of 12 undergraduate and 12 graduate students, is to help “ly and thoughtfully discuss.”

Goals of Student Advisory Board

The success of last year’s Student Advisory Group, which helped the MIT Corporation search for the new president, initiated the development of a new Student Advisory Board to President-elect Dr. Susan Hockfield.

The purpose of the board, composed of 12 undergraduate and 12 graduate students, is to help “the

new president transition into [her] role here,” said Barun Singh G, president of the Graduate Student Council and co-chair of the Board.

He said that the goal is to “find a way to let Dr. Hockfield know what students consider to be the larger overlying issues” that affect them.

Board members hope to preserve the uniqueness of MIT culture in what has become a “much more unified community” in recent years, said Satwiksai Seshasai G.

“Things like hacking are integral to drawing students to MIT,” said Eric M. Jones G, a member of the board. Some said that the encouragement of entrepreneurship and innovation would greatly help students upon their entrance into the workforce.

Graduate student members hope that Hockfield would aid in the formation of a stronger graduate student community. They cited graduate student costs of living and childcare as key issues.

Russell E. Caulfield G, co-chair of last year’s Student Advisory Group and a member of the Board, said he hoped that Hockfield’s record at Yale of addressing graduate student living and health care will continue at MIT.

Members of the board believe Hockfield will be receptive to their suggestions, and hope that it will begin a strong relationship between Hockfield and MIT students.

“They had a really good track record of getting student feedback and working directly with students,” said Michael R. Folkert G, board member and Vice-Co-Chair of the Student Advisory Group. “She’s going to spend a lot of time getting to know the students.”

Other concerns included enhancing the research cooperation between different departments at MIT and continuing former President Charles M. Vest’s pursuit of involvement in female diversity of both students and faculty.

Also, a record 80 percent of prospective freshmen who attended Campus Preview Weekend, up from the previous record yield of 75 percent, matriculated in 2004.

Crowding affected seven of the

early action policy, which allowed students to apply early to multiple colleges, to single-choice early action policy, which allowed students to apply early to MIT were more like-

most dormitories crowded

Crowding affected seven of the eleven undergraduate dormitories, the most overcrowded since Spring 2002, the semester before Simons Hall was completed. East Campus, the only dormitory to convert singles into doubles, and McCormick Hall, the all-female dormitory, were most crowded while MacGregor House, an all-singles dormitory, had only a few lounges converted into doubles.

After the fall reassignment lottery, MIT was still short about 70 dormitory beds. The Associate Dean and Assistant Director of Housing Denise A. Gray. Because each extra student slot needed meant that an entire room of people was crowded, over 2000 would have been overcrowded.

She said that she preferred to decrowd, all undergraduate residence halls had enough new vacancies to allow occupants of overcrowded rooms to choose whether or not to decrowd.

“We don’t force people to decrowd,” she said, citing factors such as roommates preferring to stay together as reasons some inhabitants might choose not to decrowd.

Jonathan Sue-Ho ’08, one of three occupants in a crowded double in Next House that is now decrowd, said “there were no major inconveniences,” although he would have preferred to live in a double. He added that it would have been “a little easier to sleep” if he had lived in a double.

MIT is purposely admitting fewer students this year to prevent crowding, said Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones. The Admissions Office will tap the waiting list if it needs to do so in order to fill the class. So far this year, MIT admitted 383 students over action, compared to 438 last year.

Summer housing plan struck down

A proposal to make undergraduate dormitories either “residence halls” or “conference space” during the summer was rejected following a negative reaction from students.

Under the proposed plan, residence halls would have housed high school students participating in MIT summer youth programs and MIT students staying on campus for the summer. Dormitories functioning as conference halls would have been used by people attending academic events at MIT such as annual department conferences.

The plan to segregate dormitories, however, was rejected after members of the Dormitory Council expressed concern in their report, “Concerns with respect to the summer housing task force report.”

The report detailed student concern regarding moving across campus during the summer and the expressed concern in theMIT student community that exists during the year. These complaints resulted in the compromise of having students to move in-house instead.

The report also proposed summer residential assistant positions, as graduate resident tutors do not have official responsibilities to the dormitories over the summer. The summer RAs will help preserve goodwill in the GRT system, said Kevin R. Lang G, a Simmons Hall GRT and a member of the recent FSILG task force.
In Memoriam

Russell G. Clisbee

Russell G. Clisbee, a custodian at MIT, passed away on Feb. 9. According to an e-mail written by Rod Garcia, director of admissions for the Sloan School of Management, Clisbee was an employee of MIT for 23 years.

"Known to always sport a smile and a slanted cap, Russell was a valued member of the MIT community who will be missed," wrote Garcia.

Daniel S. Mun

Daniel S. Mun ’05, a junior majoring in biology, committed suicide by drowning himself on Dec. 5, 2003. Mun was listed as missing for three months, until his body was recovered from the Charles River. He was 20 years old.

Mun, known as “Dong” to friends, lived at the Chi Phi fraternity in Boston. He was actively involved in the Korean Students Association, where he served as a social chair, and Oori, a Korean drumming ensemble.

Celeste Fowler

Celeste Fowler G, a Joint Program PhD student at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Ocean Engineering, died of metastatic melanoma on March 21, 2004. Fowler was 32 years old.

Her advisor, Hanumant Singh, described her lab work as “fantastic,” but added “more importantly, she was an awesome personality. She was battling cancer for two months, and she was upbeat through it all.”

Vernon R. Young

Professor of Nutritional Biology Vernon R. Young, who revolutionized scientific understanding of how the human body processes nutrients into protein, died March 30 of complications from renal cancer. He was 66.

“Our conception of how much protein people need to consume is significantly different than it was 20 years ago, largely because of Vernon Young’s research,” said Professor Richard J. Wurtman, director of MIT’s Clinical Research Center.

George W. Whitehead Jr.

George W. Whitehead Jr. of Winchester, MA, professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics, died on Monday, April 12. He was 85.

His work was exceptionally important to the development of the field of algebraic topology, “one of the most active areas” in mathematics during “the 20 year period after World War I,” said Professor Haynes R. Miller.

Nicholas J. Grant

Professor Emeritus of Metallurgy Nicholas J. Grant ScD ’44 died on May 1, 2004 at the age of 88, after a battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

Grant “was an early researcher in the development of alloys,” including high temperature and metallic alloys, said Samuel M. Allen PhD ’7, professor of physical metallurgy.

Grant was also “someone who would stick up for his students,” Allen said. “He engaged with people in situations very actively” and “was among my more colorful colleagues,” he said.

Bhuwan Singh

Graduate student Bhuwan Singh committed suicide on May 7 in a storage room near his lab and office. He died from asphyxiation.

He was very involved with both the GSC and the dormitory government at Ashtown House, where he lived. Housemaster Terry P. Orlando said that Singh was fundamental to the happiness and sense of community of the dormitory.

William T. Martin

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics William T. Martin died of pneumonia on May 30. He was 92 years old.

Martin “specialized in the fields of several complex variables and harmonic analysis,” according to the Mathematics Department’s Web site.

“He was responsible for turning MIT into a major research department,” Professor Hartley Rogers Jr. told The Boston Globe. Martin created the C.L.E. Moore Instructorship Program in 1949, which allowed the department to attract promising faculty, he said.

Dennis D. Dillon

Dennis D. Dillon ’05, 23, died in a para-gliding accident on June 28.

“The biggest thing that really stands out to me about him is that he was the one person who always lived for what made him happy,” said Samuel J. Hwang ’05. “He was a great, great guy. Everyone who met him just really liked him. He never really complained or got mad,” Hwang said.

Aaron Fleisher

Professor Aaron Fleisher, a pioneer in the use of computers in urban planning, died on Aug. 12 at age 85 following a brief illness. His wife and their children were with him at the time of his death.

Professor Fleisher, a professor emeritus in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, was known for his use of mathematical models to describe, explain, project and simulate urban areas.

John P. Longwell

Professor Emeritus John P. Longwell, a chemical engineering widely known for his research in synthetic fuels, combustion and petroleum refining, died on Oct. 6 from congestive heart failure. He was 86.

At MIT, he taught courses in chemical engineering and worked to develop energy-related programs in that department and in the MIT Energy Laboratory.

An avid conservationist and lifelong outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing, bow-hunting, hiking and skiing, as well as quieter pursuits including woodworking, rock and mineral collecting, and listening to classical chamber music, said Marion Longwell, his wife of 59 years.

Charles R. Schwartz

Charles R. Schwartz, an engineer at MIT’s Plasma Science and Fusion Center (PSFC) and an accomplished pilot, died Oct. 26 when the small plane he was piloting crashed into a building in Leominster, Mass.

Mr. Schwartz, 50, was the chief radio frequency (RF) engineer for the Alcator C-Mod tokamak fusion project at the PSFC, where he managed a group of engineers, technicians and physicists.

“He had the unusual ability to teach not only the staff, but also the students about RF systems and safety practices. His broad experience made him the foundation for the successful multi-megawatt RF heating and current drive program at Alcator C-Mod,” said Steve Wukitch, a research scientist and RF physicist.

Ascher Shapiro

Institute Professor Emeritus Ascher Shapiro of MIT, a pioneer in the field of biomedical engineering and a leader in fluid mechanics research and education, died in his Jamaica Plain home on Nov. 26 of liver cancer. He was 88.

For the first 25 years of his career, Shapiro’s research was focused primarily on power production, high-speed flight, turbo-machinery and propulsion by jet engines and rockets. Soon after, he directed the Atomic Energy Commission’s Project Dynamo, which evaluated nuclear energy as a potential source of civilian electricity production.
THE YEAR IN PHOTOS
The Cambridge City Council has recently discussed plans to get more money from MIT and Harvard to pay for the city budget and ease an impending rise in property taxes. MIT and Harvard, as educational, non-profit institutions, do not pay property taxes on their extensive land holdings. Councillor Kenneth Reeves asserted that universities “are not sharing in the burden of taxation.” From The Tech’s perspective, the numbers indicate Cambridge is already deeply indebted to MIT and Harvard, and that it should rethink its spending priorities before reaching for more money.

The Cambridge Council notes that 51 percent of land in Cambridge is not taxable, and much of that is owned by MIT or Harvard. However, Cambridge’s primary expense is education; it comprises one third of the city’s budget. The leased land owned by MIT and Harvard is not taxable, and much of the city's budget is education; it comprises one third of the city’s budget. In the face of a national real-ization that nearly all government budgets are high enough that they can be recreated in dormitories. But there are a lot of demands on MIT’s budget these days. Everyone who pays for health care, for example, has been complaining about the rising cost of health insurance, and asking the university to shoulder more of the cost. In the face of a national realization that nearly all government budgets are high enough that they demand new debt, taxes, or spending cuts, the City of Cambridge shouldn’t be granted a free pass by using Harvard and MIT as ATMs.

MIT Must Set Standards for Success

Sept. 21, 2004

The Task Force on Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups released its report yesterday on the status and future development of the residential system at MIT. The report does a fine job summarizing the myriad facets of the FSILG system, and a strong theme emerges that while FSILGs are a tremendous source of community and culture for MIT, there are problems with the system and severe threats to its long term viability. While the report prescribes short term measures to shore up the FSILG system, what MIT needs now is a standard for the success or failure of freshmen on campus as a policy as well as a set of clearly enunci-at ed long term goals for student life.

The current task force faced a challenge when it was charged not to question or discuss changes to the freshmen-on-campus (FOC) policy: task force members report that in instance after instance, the committee would come to a problem and see that FOC was a direct obstacle to fixing it. Given that constraint they did well enough finding workarounds.

All the work isn’t done, though. The report begins to but does not completely address key questions. Analysis of dormitory life was beyond the purview of the task force, but their work makes overlap unavoidable: all freshmen living on campus implies a quarter of FSILG members living on campus, and that cannot be ignored when considering the health of the FSILG system. Furthermore, the report does not address the question of what benefits are unique to FSILGs and which can be recreated in dormitories.

In addition, senior dormitory residents and housemasters report that FOC has been a great blow to the dormitory community as well as the FSILGs. Freshmen FSILG mem-bers fail to embrace their dormitory community because it is essentially a foster home until they can live in the house they clearly prefer. Their lack of commitment drains the energy of all residents, and as a con-

Anna's Taqueria: MIT asked for student opinions about replacing Arrow Street. And then actually listened.

Affirmative Action: Calling people racist when you disagree with them is obnoxious.

Phil Vasquez: The UA has continued its tradition of scandals for yet another year.

SAE: They went away and came back, but they still haven’t learned.

Subsidized Healthcare: MIT realizes healthy graduate students are more productive.

New President: Still waiting for Hockfield to have opinions.

2006 Brass Rat: Thumbs up for spherical coordinates, and for the 2007 Ringcomm being representative of its class.

Google: Google goes public but keeps its soul. Plus, they recruited at MIT.

Bush's Inauguration: Bush honors soldiers at home with a big party, tell soldiers in combat to stop whining.

Jon Stewart: For being the most influential news commentator, fake or not, and for telling Tucker Carlson off.

Democratic National Convention: Menino created a “free speech zone,” and then people went there just to protest its creation.

Red Sox: Way to go! It was worth those seven days of getting absolutely no work done.

Martha Stewart: Stewart has hit a new low after losing a decorating contest in prison.

Poland: We won't forget.
It's 10 O'Clock
Do You Know Where Your Country Is?

Ruth Miller

A Red Cross report filed in December of 2003 resulted in no more than rumors in the smallest circles. Any rumour of dissent or hint of foul play was engulfed by the larger quagmire. The world was almost forgotten when the shocking photographs of the Abu Ghraib prison hit the media machine. The old adage “a picture is worth a thousand words” was proven once again in April of 2004, when the shocking abuse and sexual degradation of Iraqi prisoners saturated the headlines. Soon a military report followed that identified 94 additional cases of prisoner abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 39 deaths.

Perhaps most appalling of all is the possibility that these are not isolated incidents, and that they are representative of a deeper failure in ethics. The following month, the Pentagon’s Schlesinger report asserted that the abuses were the result of “fundamental failures throughout all levels of command.” In his tenure as White House Council Alberto Gon- zales, the recently appointed to replace John Ashcroft as Attorney General, wrote that terrorism was a new kind of war and redefined portions of the Geneva Conventions “quaint.” The decision had covered portions of the Geneva Conventions “quaint.” The decision had covered portions of the Geneva Conventions “quaint.”

The morality of the Cold War was that through the power of U.S. military might, American values and ideals could spread around the world. Lots of pictures were taken of U.S. officials shaking hands with their former enemies, and those smiling images still fill our textbooks today. The embodiment of all about American ideals, and how important it was to have them.

Then came the War on Terror. At the onset of the Afghanistan invasion, the U.S. was riding on the world’s tremendous post-9/11 support. The old U.S. allies were very vocal in their sympathies and willingness to help defend the newly embattled United States. Within a few weeks, a new popularism reigned in the United States. It was that through the power of American military might, American values and ideals could spread around the world. Lots of pictures were taken of U.S. officials shaking hands with their former enemies, and those smiling images still fill our textbooks today. The embodiment of all about American ideals, and how important it was to have them.

In its quest for justice, revenge, the American way, or whatever, the driving forces behind the War on Terror have forgotten what it means to be an American. As Americans, we know that every U.S. dollar spent in Iraq reconstruction is a dollar that could have been spent in the United States. The United States is spending too much of our wealth on a war that is being fought by its own citizens and for the benefit of its good allies.

In international politics, the only relevant opinions are internationally held ones.

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Mean Girls

W. Victoria Lee

Cough, cough. Hello? Hey you. Yeah, I mean you. No, don’t look behind you, or under the desk. It’s me, the little voice inside your head. Happy New Year! Yup, it’s a brand new year; got any resolutions? What? I can’t hear you. No, you said? Well, let me help you. For starters, one has to reflect upon the past in order to improve the future. Take last year... no, take the past year because our president “didn’t want to go out there and just speak for speaking’s sake.” Obviously because the U.S.’s position as the world’s leader and most powerful country, it is gallant for the government to be at the forefront to spread democracy and fight off human-caused tragedies, yet it is just too ostentatious to be the first one to express sympathy and to offer help, and it would seem like showing off to be the one to pledge the most money.

Australia tops all countries that pledged with $815 million, that is 0.142 percent, of their gross domest-ic product. The U.S., with its much unappreciated $350 million, stands at 0.003 percent GDP. Six other countries besides Australia beat out the U.S. in the race of percent GDP pledged. Perhaps the shift in allies was inevitable, but will it benefit the U.S. in the long run? On the horizon, China’s military and economy are growing at phenomenal rates - rates that raise many eyebrows for the U.S.’s stated goal of primacy. Will this new bigger, to handle a conflict with China? Or will it have clean up act to its allies?

Non-traditional allies are tricky, because they can’t be swayed easily by ideologies. Many of the U.S.’s Middle Eastern allies have similar or worse human rights records than China. It would cost a lot of arms for the U.S. to coax sufficient support from its Middle Eastern allies. What is this adolescent country to do? Well, in high school, when someone tried to join multiple cliques, they had to carefully balance their time between the groups. The United States is spending too little quality time with Western Europe. If the Middle East gets jealous, maybe the United States should invite them all over to see Mean Girls and gossip about Poland.

From the Little Voice Inside Your Head

2004 YEAR IN REVIEW

OPINION

Lee, Page 18
The administration has demonstrated extraordinary ideological and even emotional commitment to reshaping MIT undergraduate life via FOC. Though it would demand uncharacteristic candor, it seems reasonable to us for MIT to give a clear and unambiguous statement of intentions and long-term plans. Until this information is on the table, substantive discussion really can’t continue — meanwhile, we’ll just need to keep applying band-aids and duct-tape to keep this system together.

Bush and Sound Science

April 16, 2004

The Union of Concerned Scientists recently released a report and statement signed by 62 prominent scientists charging the Bush administration with widespread manipulation and misuse of science in government. The report is damning, and attacks all facets of the relationship between government and science. Weapons policy makers are accused of ignoring the physics community’s input and skepticism regarding anti-missile defense. Bush environmental officials are accused of ignoring, repressing, and misrepresenting the scientific research that should guide their decisions. The report is worded strongly: “The suppression and misrepresentation of science by the Bush administration is unprecedented. There is a well established pattern of suppression and distortion of scientific findings” by this administration.

As a community of the world’s leading scientists and engineers, MIT should be especially perturbed at this abuse; after all, the U.S. itself was born of a faculty movement here in the late 1960s, advocating a shift from purely military research to social and environmental research. MIT should be one of the first organizations to support (or rebuke, if the case exists) the stance of the UCS — the issue of field expertise in determining scientific policy is too fundamental to the core values of the Institute to ignore.

President Vest has not returned multiple requests for comment on this report. Given his impending installation as a Washington insider, we hope he hasn’t sacrificed any part of the spirit of honest scientific inquiry by bending to political winds. He’ll surely have to face more severe trials along those lines during his beltway tenure.

What’s exemplified here are not simply disagreements over value judgements. The points of contention are not whether or not the government should develop weapons systems, allow citizens to use pristine environments for productive ends, or extensively fund mission-oriented research. The problem is the scientific merit of the facts the government has used to arrive at their conclusions. This administration seems not to understand that the point of science needs to be at that level of value judgment, not at the level of fact and reality, which are less (or rather, not) subject to spin.

As insiders depict in greater numbers from the Bush administration, those sharing horror stories about ideological blinkers and unprecedented politicization of decision making, the dishonest modus operandi appears to be catching up to a candidate who rode into Washington promising to “set a new tone” of honesty and civility. Indeed, Bush has set a new tone, but it’s not one marked by candor. There’s plenty of room for disagreement, spin, and misinformation in the standard back and forths of politics and ideology. But patronizing dishonesty is not an ideological position.

Disaster Courts Hypocrisy

Lee, from Page 17

catastrophic Bam earthquake in 2003 received $1.1 billion pledged by nations around the world, yet so far only a little over 1.5 percent of that money has actually reached the devastated city. The real help comes from individuals who donate to charitable organizations like the Selection Fund for Aid in an Endemic Disaster. "What’s the greatest source of America’s generosity is not our government, it’s the good heart of the American people," one donor opined. Too bad he didn’t specify which American people.

From billion dollar rich companies to five dollar weekly allowance children, many American people bring back some of the humanity. So far, U.S. companies have donated more than $180 million and more pledges are on the way. Pharmaceutical company Pfizer alone has donated $10 million and products that amount to $25 million. What’s missing from the donor list is Hollywood, probably a place teeming with the most people who are unprofessionally affluent. In case you haven’t noticed, not too many celebrities have made significant donations. Numerous reports often start with this sentence, “many Hollywood stars, including Sandra Bullock, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Steven Spielberg, have donated large sums of money to survivors of the tsunami disaster.”

"What’s the big deal?” you’d say; one’s wealth does not require one to donate. Whatever the case, the millions of fans who support them. There is something wrong with how, when choosing between spending last episode’s $2 million check on a designer-brand leather purse or donating 22 minutes of “hard-earned” money to those who need it the most, these people don’t hold the check to the sky. Why aren’t they angry at them? Why aren’t you?

Once again, Mother Nature reminds us her might, and once again she forces us to look at humanity, not just that of ourselves, but that of those whom we admire and that demonstrated by our government. Contrary to their claim, we find it more in ourselves than elsewhere. So, New Year resolution: don’t let the outrage die. Just because no one shows it, it doesn’t mean it is not deserved.

It’s not a part of anyone’s political philosophy to lie about reality. This administration seems to be a bit confused; it’s their tool of the trade.

Gay Marriage: A National Affair

Feb. 20, 2004

With the decisions of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled by a 4–3 margin that civil unions fail to grant homosexuals the rights entitled to them by the state constitution, they began an immediate appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The legal history between race and sexual equality in America are indeed striking.

In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), ultimately claiming that states can decide for themselves whether or not to allow same-sex marriage and that for federal purposes, a marriage is only a union between a man and a woman. Thus 1,049 federal marriage felons for homosexuals were enrolled.

Since then, legal teams took district to district to court and proved that funding for black schools and white schools were not equal. Realizing that the effort was too exhausting for them, advocates have not been jailed or physically attacked by law enforcement during rallies, the legal histories between race and non-sexuality in America are indeed striking.

That law led to the non-uniform policy across the country seen today. As a result, advocacy groups have tried to go from state to state to overturn bans on same-sex marriages or establish them as legal. The same tactic was taken in the 1950’s by the NAACP when attacking the “separate, but equal” policy. In 1970’s, legal teams took districts to court and proved that funding for black schools and white schools were not equal. Realizing that the effort was too exhausting for them, advocates have not been jailed or physically attacked by law enforcement during rallies, the legal histories between race and non-sexuality in America are indeed striking.

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In a year when there was no “Lord of the Rings” to look forward to, looking back on films released since then still induces a muted level of excitement. There was the usual mixed bag of sequels, such as the embarrassing “Spiderman 2,” “Shrek 2” (along with “Shark Tale”) that showed how derivative and inferior Dreamworks Animation is to Pixar, and “Blade Trinity” was three times as bad as “Blade 2.” "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban” was the only sequel to improve upon its predecessors, but still possessed flaws which seem to plague the entire series. Why on earth didn’t they explain the Marauder’s Map? The year 2004 also saw its share of controversial films. “Fahrenheit 9/11” and “The Passion of the Christ” both attracted outrage from different groups that simultaneously revered the other film. Though a line by line factual backup of “Fahrenheit 9/11” is available at Michael Moore’s Web site, I cannot give the film my entire factual backup of “Fahrenheit 9/11” and Larry begin sleeping together soon after meeting. This is representative of the emotional and romantic chaos that the film traverses. For Natalie Portman, her most impressive display was not so much in the private rooms of the strip clubs which employ her, but rather the breathtaking portrayal of her character’s numerous emotional turns.

4. Finding Neverland — “Just a dog? Rufus dreams of being a bear, and you want to shatter those dreams by saying he’s just a dog?” — J. M. Barrie

This film is about the author of Peter Pan, J. M. Barrie (Johnny Depp), and how his failing writing career eventually gave birth to one of the most beloved works of all time. According to the film, his inspiration was kindled when he meets a group of fatherless boys, named Peter, Michael, and so on, whose sick mother Sylvia (Kate Winslet) becomes his romantic interest. Reality is mixed with Barrie’s theater and also scenes from his far-reaching imagination, such as the juxtaposition of Barrie playing with a dog in the park against his dancing with a bear in a wonderfully choreographed circus troupe. Though the story follows a somewhat predictable arc, the acting is absolutely superb, and Jan Kaczmarek’s playful score is one of the year’s most beautiful.

3. Garden State — “Good luck exploring the infinite abyss.” — Andrew Largeman

Zach Braff, previously best known for “Scrubs,” wrote, directed, and starred in this surprising gem, in which he plays a twenty-something estranged son named Andrew who has taken emotion-numbing drugs since he was ten. Natalie Portman is adorable as Sam, a mildly compulsive liar who also suffers from narcolepsy. The plot is a patchwork of a wide range of stories, from a visit to a hotel where people can spy on guests making love, to a boat stationed at the upper ridge of a deep abyss cutting into the earth where a shopping mall had been planned. We see a former classmate of Andrew’s now living in an unfurnished mansion after inventing silent Velcro, and another classmate named Mark (Peter Sarsgaard) who steals jewelry from corpses through his employment as a gravedigger. The stalwart link through these tales is the emotional attachment between Andrew and Sam, and the optimistic conclusion that two troubled individuals can be perfect for each other.

2. The Incredibles — “You are Elastigirl! My God, pull yourself together!” — Edna ‘E’ Mode

Pixar’s latest display of brilliance deviated from toys, fish, and bugs, turning instead to animated human beings. This latest tale about adult superheroes gone to seed and their likewise gifted children somehow recalls both cartoon and James Bond, but the result is still an original and very funny masterpiece.

“The Incredibles” offers some of the most beautiful animation yet done, featuring waterfalls, forests, and explosions that are nearly as photoreal as live action. Though Pixar will soon be producing films independently of Disney, the latter company still owns the rights to all of Pixar’s existing features. They recently announced Toy Story 3, which will not be made at Pixar. Somehow the phrase “straight to video” comes to mind.

1. Ray — “I hear like you see. Like the hummingbird outside the window.” — Ray Charles

Ray Charles, who passed away this year, was one of the world’s most loved and influential musicians to date. Though I hardly knew anything about the man before, after seeing this film I feel like I know everything, and have gone to the music library to listen to as much of his music as I can find. Jamie Foxx’s portrayal of Ray Charles is one of the finest acting performances in the last five years — the challenge it must have been to replicate Charles’ mannerisms, speech, and musicianship was immense, and Foxx achieves it with perfection. The film addresses the musician’s childhood, during which he lost his sight, and the many decades of his career, when he also battled a drug addiction. It seamlessly integrates Foxx’s performances with original, remastered, and entirely new recordings over the course of the film, presenting the broad range of Charles’ musical styles, which is simultaneously a natural soundtrack for the challenges he faced offstage.
THE YEAR IN ARTS
The MIT women’s volleyball team completed yet another outstanding season in November with a 26–10 record, an East Coast Athletic Conference Championship, and numerous broken records by athletes on the team.

The Engineers opened the season with two tri-match games in Rockwell Cage against Edgewood College (Wisc.) and Gordon College, and ended up sweeping both teams, not dropping a single match out of the six. MIT followed that up with a sweep of Brandeis two days later.

The Women Engineers hit a bump in the road in New York, going 2–2 at the Bomber Invitational hosted by Ithaca College. They shut out Ithaca and SUNY Oneonta, but fell to Williams and New York University the next day. Back at home, the Engineers resumed their win streak, going six for seven, only losing one game to NYU, yet again.

The Engineers entered the New England Women’s Men’s Athletic Conference Tournament with a 23–9 record and an 8–1 conference record, earning them second place. After shutting out Clark over three matches in the tournament quarterfinals, the Engineers advanced to the semifinals, only to be defeated by Springfield College in three rounds.

MIT then moved on to the ECAC Tournament, meeting Wellesley College in the semifinals and defeating them for the fourth time this season. In the Championship match against the Coast Guard, the Engineers aggressively fought off the first seeded Bears, ending the first match 33–31 after fighting off three game points. The Engineers won the next match but dropped the third. Finally in the fourth round, MIT came back to take a 30–27 victory over the Bears.

The Engineers closed the season with a 26–10 record, marking the ninth season in a row in which the team has tallied more than 20 wins. Caroline D. Jordan ’04 earned ECAC Tournament MVP, with 32 kills over the entire tournament. Junior Austin Zimmerman broke an MIT record in career assists on two bad ankles. Her coach described her performance in some of the games as “fairly heroic.”

Elaborated, saying that “she was playing with a tremendous amount of pain and we had to not play her in certain matches because it was too painful and we needed her for the bigger matches.” Despite two injured ankles, time on the bench from the pain, and only three years on the team, she managed to break multiple MIT records in career assists (3632), assists in a match (51), and assists per game average (11.53).

Arlis A. Reynolds ’04 also broke a couple MIT records, recording most service aces in a match and achieving the highest career service ace average per game.

The American Volleyball Coaches Association again named Jordan and Zimmerman for the 2004 All-America Teams, marking the first time MIT has had more than one player selected in a season. Zimmerman also became the first person at MIT to be named for the honor twice, having been selected last year as well.

Coach Paul Dill is in his eighth season as head coach of the women’s volleyball team at MIT. He has a winning percentage of .773, is among the top 15 Division III coaches in the nation in winning percentage, and has lead the Engineers to a post-season berth in every season of his time as head coach at MIT.

When asked what was behind his team’s success, he replied that “it’s due to personnel and the kids we’re recruiting. We put a lot of emphasis on recruiting and trying to find top-notch student athletes, people that are a good fit for MIT academically... We’ve gotten to the point now where we don’t really have walk-ons anymore. It’s all recruited athletes who come from very strong programs, both high school and club.” He added, “The success builds on itself.”

Zimmerman, when asked about the balance act between academics and volleyball at MIT, answered that the school work “definitely holds us back from being as good as we could be if we weren’t at MIT, but it makes it more satisfying to do well when you are practicing on minimal sleep and playing games, and as the season wears on it gets harder and harder, but it makes it more rewarding to do well in the end.”

As for next year, only one senior graduate in May, leaving the team nearly intact, with a skilled freshman class coming in. Coach Dill anticipates that MIT will “just be adding to what we did last year.”

The MIT men’s soccer team started practices in fall 2004, they knew they had their work cut out for them. They were returning from a 2003 season in which they managed to fight their way to the NCAA national quarterfinals and win the 8th position in the national rankings. Their star seniors from the ’03 season had graduated, leaving the Engineers without their top scorers. Their goal now was simply to get back to the NCAA’s.

Coach Walter Alessi, who started as head coach for the Engineers in 1975 and was named New England Men’s and Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2002 and 2003, pulled his team together and set them at their task.

The squad started the season with a win against Rhode Island College, but ran into some difficulty against Tufts in the second game of 2004. Tufts tied the game 1–1 with a last minute goal, and MIT could not net a shot in overtime. It was a disappointing tie for the Engineers, and they came off the field frustrated and discouraged.

Things started to come together for the Engineers a few days later with the NEWMAC conference opener against Coast Guard. Jose...
This year was a good year to be a Boston sports fan, especially if you live just blocks away from Fenway Park as many MIT students do. Not only did the New England Patriots win their second Super Bowl victory and set themselves up to win a third, but the Boston Red Sox, the baseball franchise that faced its heart-wrenching losses, finally fought back 86 years of fan frustration to win a World Series title. The whole of Boston went on a happy trip that lasted several days. And that’s about as good as it is going to get for the fans of Boston sports.

After the 2001-2002 season, when the New England Patriots came from seemingly nowhere to win the Super Bowl, upsetting the favored St. Louis Rams, no one really expected to see them in the hunt again for a while. The '02-'03 season seemed to prove them right, as the Pats went 9–7. But, starting in fall of 2003, the Patriots went on a run of football dominance the likes of which this country has not seen in quite a while.

First, the Pats won on a 14 game win streak to close the 2003 regular season seemed to prove them right, as the Pats lost 9–7. But, starting in fall of 2003, the Patriots went on a run of football dominance the likes of which this country has not seen in quite a while.

First, the Pats went on a 14 game win streak to close the 2003 regular season. That set up an AFC Championship game in cold Foxboro against the high-flying Indianapolis Colts, who sported the best offense in the league. That didn’t matter to the Colts, who were favored 9–2 to win. The Pats had a relatively new GM, Theo Epstein, who brought in veteran ace pitcher Curt Schilling, and new Coach Terry Francona to try to push the Red Sox over the AFC hump and into the World Series, after losing on a heartbreaker of a home run to the New York Yankees in the previous year.

Flash forward to the playoffs. The Red Sox entered them as the AL Wild Card, having failed to beat the Yankees for the AL East title. Along the way, the Red Sox traded Nomar Garciaparra, their All-Star shortstop, for Doug Mientkiewicz and Orlando Cabrera, among others, because he was unhappy playing for the team. In the playoffs, these new players would prove instrumental in getting the Red Sox their first world series win.

The Red Sox blew through their first playoff series with the Anaheim Angels, sweeping them in three games. But in the next round, when they faced the New York Yankees, things didn’t go as smoothly. The Yankees took the first three games of the series, keeping the Red Sox batters from doing any kind of damage in the first two games, and outslugging them in the third.

As no team has ever come back from a three game deficit in a baseball playoff series, everyone had written the Red Sox off. But things changed in Game 4 in Boston. In a long, extra-innings slugfest that saw both the Yankees and the Red Sox blow multiple chances to take the game, the Red Sox came back to win on a two-run homer by David Ortiz. The Red Sox then won Game 5 as well, in another marathon playoff game (the longest ever played) that taxed both teams’ bullpens to their limit. Ultimately, the Red Sox bullpen won out and the team won the game, again.

After winning those two grueling games, momentum seemed to gather behind the Sox. Curt Schilling came in for Game 6, pitching on a bloody, sutured ankle, and pitched a solid game to lead the Red Sox to the win. Finally, in Game 7, the Sox completed the four-game sweep and accomplished the unprecedented.

Boston and Cambridge exploded when the Red Sox beat the Yanks. People from all over, college students of all stripes (including MIT), crowded onto Yawkey way to celebrate one of the most significant events in this city in the last century. It was one huge party and riot scene all in one. Unfortunately, it also claimed a life when riot police fired on the revelers and killed a student.

After the Red Sox win over the Yankees, the World Series seemed a letdown: the Red Sox not only swept the St. Louis Cardinals, but swept them convincingly, Curt Schilling again won on a bloody ankle, one of the enduring symbols of this postseason.

And when the Red Sox finally won the series, there was again joy throughout the city, and another, much more controlled riot on Yawkey way. But this time there was relief, too, for all the old Red Sox fans that had despaired of a series win in their lifetime. All in all, it was a rare, special year in Boston sports, one not likely to be seen again for a long, long time.

MIT Sports Achievements, in Brief

By Brian Chase

A lot of MIT varsity teams were very successful in 2004. Here are a few of the noteworthy accomplishments:

—Both MIT Tennis teams did well in the last year. The Men’s team won 14–4 overall, 6–0 in the NEWMAC conference, and went on to be crowned champions of the NEWMAC tournament. The Women’s team went 8–3 overall and 6–1 last fall, and came in second in the NEWMAC tournament, losing in the finals to Wellesley.

—Men’s Cross Country won their second consecutive NEWMAC Cross Country Championship behind the running of Ben A. Schmeckpeper ’05. As a team MIT placed sixth in the National NCAA Championships, and Schmeckpeper placed eighth in the NCAA Championships.

—The Men’s Hockey team went 15–3–1 over the course of the ’03–’04 season and took second in the NECHA, losing in the NECHA Finals to Bryant.

—The women’s fencing team dominated the local competition in the ’03–’04 season, going 17–8 overall and 10–0 in the Northeast Fencing Conference, which they won. The team went 9–1 in the NEWMAC conference, and went on to be crowned champions, with members placing 1st and 2nd in Foil, 2nd in Sabre, and 3rd in Epee. The team placed 7th in the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, and two students progressed all the way to the NCAA Championships, where Lucy R. Mendel ’06 took 19th in Epee and Susannah M. Dorfman ’05 took 23rd in Foil.

—The Women’s swim team had a successful ’03–’04 season, qualifying seven swimmers for the NCAA Championships and taking second place at the NEWMAC championships. Kathryn Duffy ’04 broke four individual NEWMAC records in the 50 free, 100 free, 200 free, and 50 breast, and helped the 800 free relay break a fifth. She was named NEWMAC Women’s Swimmer of the Year.

—The Men’s Swim Team took second in the NEWMAC Championships after the ’03–’04 season, and current sophomore Craig M. Edwards ’07 earned All-American honors at the NCAA Championships.

—The MIT Men’s Track and Field ’03–’04 season ended with a 4th consecutive NEWMAC conference championship, even though the team was not expected to win going into the competition. Uzoma A. Orji ’06 scored all of MIT’s 14 points at the national championships, going first in the shot put and fifth in the weight throw, and was named an All-American in both events. He also earned NCAA Division III Regional Track and Field Athlete of the Season and NCAA Division III Field Athlete of the Meet honors for his performance at the National Championships.
Morgan R. Mills ’05 stepped into his role as the star forward, scoring both of MIT’s goals in a 2–1 win over the Bears.

The Engineers also had no trouble a week later against Clark University, racking up a 3–1 conference win and showing the mettle of their sophomores, as Ryan T. Shaffer ’07 scored the first two goals of his career to help his team to a win.

The team sailed on from there, encountering few difficulties on their road to a post season berth. Goalkeeper Morgan R. Mills ’05, with help from his nearly impene-trable defense, broke an MIT record for career shutouts and shutouts in a season, and he added to his six that season during the playoffs.

MIT earned the number one seed in the NEWMAC Men’s Soccer Tournament. After getting a bye for the first round, the Engineers shut out the Coast Guard Bears in a 1–0 overtime victory, making their way to the NEWMAC Tournament Final.

In the finals, the Engineers met the Babson College Beavers. MIT has a 4–22 all time record against Babson since the series began in 1977, and the Engineers were unable to add a win, despite out-shooting the Beavers 14–10.

The Engineers were disappoint-ed, but moved past their defeat, taking the first game of the East Coast Athletic Conference New England Division III Men’s Soccer Tournament away from Plymouth State in yet another shutout. MIT had secured first seed in this tournament as well, and was confident about their chances for the title.

The Engineers advanced to the Semi-final round and traveled to New London, Connecticut to meet, yet again, Coast Guard. After Walter Song ’06 tied the match with two goals just four minutes apart, the Engineers and the Bears took the game into overtime, tied at 3–3.

With five minutes remaining in double overtime, freshman Christopher R. Desrochers ’08 scored the game ending goal to take MIT to the tournament championship.

“The Engineers were supposed to meet the Johnson & Wales Wildcats at MIT to determine who took home the ECAC title. Unfortunately, as a result of a snow storm and scheduling difficulties, the ECAC declared MIT and Johnson & Wales co-champions of the tournament. The Engineers were again disappointed with the decision to cancel the game, as they had already defeated the Wildcats earlier in the year in a 2–0 shutout, and felt good about their chances to reassert their dominance in a rematch. John D. Griffith ’05, who played left defender and stabilized the defense throughout the course of the year, said in an interview that “We’re confident that if we played, we would have won.”

At the end of the season, five members of the team, the maximum that can be chosen from one school, were named to the NEW-MAC Men’s All-Conference Team. Captains Griffith, Song, and Tor-radas were named to the first team for the second year running. Senior defender Robert Pilawa was also chosen for the first team and Mills was chosen for the second. Griffith said about the selections that “for us to have so many players named to an All-Conference team is excit-ing... It shows that a lot of the coaches had a lot of respect for the players on our team.”

In addition to the NEWMAC awards, the team garnered a num-ber of honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America in its 2004 selections for the NSCAA/Adidas Scholar-Athlete All-America Team, the Men’s Col-lege Team Academic Award, and the All-New England Soccer Team.

All three captains were selected for the All-New England team. Tor-radas also received Scholar-Athlete All-America honors, which is the first time an MIT player has gained this recogni-tion at a national level.

After another suc-cессful year, the team will have to recuper-ate again after key losses in the goal, on defense, and in the forward line, as five seniors graduate in May. However, Grif-fith was confident that the team would survive the loss. “We have a really good freshman class. There are already kids we’ve seen step up and play these positions... We have peo-ple who can slide into those roles.”

The goal for MIT soccer is to “become a team that is known year in and year out to make it to the NCAA’s,” and with this season’s record of 14–3–1, the fourth year in a row they have taken more than ten wins, MIT is well on its way.