**Graduate Programs Receive More Applications**

By Elizabeth S. Johnson

MIT's graduate programs have seen a significant overall increase of the number of applicants for fall 2006. Applications totaled around 14,850, about 15 percent higher than 2006. Applications totaled around 13,050 in 2005, so numbers this year indicate a possible recovery.

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**News Analysis**

The Lincoln-led study gave a generally positive review to claims of the defense contractor TRW, now part of Northrop Grumman, that its software was able to tell the difference between an enemy warhead and a decoy balloon in a 1997 missile test. For three years, even since a preliminary inquiry found that the matter was settled, a full-blown examination, the Institute's policies have called for a "prompt" investigation into the allegations of scientific fraud levied in 2001 by Professor Theodore A. Postol '77.

That hasn't happened, because the Missile Defense Agency forbade MIT to investigate, saying the risk of disclosure of classified information was too great.

**Pushpinder Singh**

Family and friends of Pushpinder Singh '98 gathered in MIT chapel yesterday for his memorial service, filling all the seats and crowding against the back and side walls. The service was informal and did not follow a schedule, as Singh would have liked, according to Media Lab director Frank Moss PhD '77. Friends, mentors, and students came up to the microphone to share memories of the MIT post-doctoral associate, who will be remembered as brilliant and enthusiastic about learning, yet humble and kind. The mood swung as speakers shared funny anecdotes, and sometimes lost their composure as they described the loss of an individual who had been part of the MIT community for over a decade.

Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences professor Jerald S. Susman '68 described meeting Singh 13 years ago and seeing him in his classes over the years. Singh "showed up at my office" all the time until recently, he said. Susman said that "Push's work was a breath of fresh air," and although "it's been a rough time for all of us . . . Push would not want us to be miserable."
The American military will close Abu Ghraib, the prison west of Baghdad that became notorious for revelations of abuses by American guards there in 2004, a spokesman said Thursday.

Another spokesman, Lt. Col. Kevin Curry, said that opera-
tions will be transferred to a new prison facility at Camp Cropper, once construction is completed there. "The plan is to accomplish this within the next three months," he said.

Curry said the detainee population at Abu Ghraib was 4,537. Camp Cropper, at the Baghdad airport, now holds 40 prisoners, including dozens who have been termed high-value detainees, includ-
ing Saddam Hussein.

Even though American military prisons have been overcrowiced, Maj. Gen. John D. Gardner of the Army said in December that no facilities or prisoners now held by American forces would be turned over to the Iraqi government until worries about mistreatment had been laid to rest.

The Army has spent $50 million on the latest round of prison ex-
pansions. In December, the number of violent detainees held in Ameri-
can prisons had grown to 14,000. The largest prison, Camp Bucsa in the country’s south, holds about 8,000 detainees.

**U.S. Trade Deficit Increased To $68.5 Billion in January**

**By Vikas Bajaj**

The nation’s trade deficit widened to another record in January, the government reported Thursday, as the strengthening American economy attracted a surge of imported cars, household goods and pe-
troleum products.

Imports increased $8.5 billion more in goods and services than they exported at the start of the year, up 5.3 percent from December, the Commerce Department said; it was the largest deficit since Octo-
ber, when the gap swelled to $67.8 billion. A 3.5 percent jump in imports in January appear to reflect the sharpening higher consumer spending during the month and rising price of oil, gasoline and other energy products. Automotive and car parts imports increased 5.3 percent during the month and the country spent 4.3 percent more on petroleum-based imports.

Exports were up 2.5 percent from December, with soybean ship-
ments doubling and airplane sales up 44 percent. But sales of most other American goods and services changed only modestly in Janu-
ary.

**Arbitrator to Decide Awards In Boston Church Abuse Cases**

**By Pam Belluck**

A second group of plaintiffs who say they were abused by priests in Boston has reached a settlement with the archdiocese here, agree-
ing to allow an arbitrator to determine the monetary award they will receive.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and lawyers for the plaintiffs, who represent 138 plaintiffs who were offered the settlement in December had signed the agreement and would be awarded $5,000 to $220,000 in arbitration hearings to begin this month. The average award was $75,000, the lawyers and the archdiocese said.

"This is an important first step in resolving pending claims of sexual

abuse by priests in the Archdiocese of Boston," said Kelly Lynch, a spokeswoman for the archdiocese. "We’re very pleased at the response the settlement offers generated.”

**Dubcctes’ Company Suspected Of Assisting Insurgency in Iraq**

**By Kirk Senglow**

The Sunni-owned security com-
pany where about 50 employees were kidnapped Wednesday was under investigation for allegedly collab-
oring with the anti-government insurgency, an Interior Ministry of-
official said Thursday.

The official, Maj. Gen. Mehdi Sahib Hashem al-Garawi, com-
mander of a paramilitary police unit, said in an interview that his investigators had been examin-
ing the company. Many of its em-
ployees were members of Saddam Hussein’s security forces, said a company employee who worked the abduc-
tors. The company was also operating without a license, which was can-
lceled last year, according to ministry documents.

Witnesses to the kidnapping said the attackers were driving vehicles and wearing uniforms resembling those used by paramilitary units of the Interior Ministry, which oversees the police.

But no one has claimed responsi-

bility for the assault, and the where-

abouts of the workers remain a mys-
tery.

The brother of an administra-
tor for the company, who requested anonymity out of fear for his safety, said his family had been told by a government official that the em-
ployees were being held at a gov-
ernment detention center in Bagh-
dad.

But Garawi and several other Interior Ministry officials denied that any agency had any role in the operation, and a spokesman for the Defense Ministry said the military was not involved. Several officials said the Interior Ministry had opened an investigation, though the minister himself, Bayan Jahr, told a news conference earlier in the day that the ministry had been notified but had not commented.

The official sought anonymity because he was not authorized to speak for the record. He was refer-
red to Bush, who had backed the deal, along with several Republican sena-
tors who supported the transfer.

The decision drew sighs of relief from officials in New York and other cities where the transfer had stirred crises of alarm. But the announcement left those officials wondering which American companies might want to buy the American operations.

**Weather**

**Spring’s Here Early**

A warm front that moved through our area early this morning will bring unseasonably warm weather this weekend. Today will start out dreary, but the low pressure system that brought us yesterday’s clouds will quickly exit the region by tonight, making way for high pressure and clear weather Saturday.

**Extended Forecast**

- Today: Cloudy, windy, and temperatures will be around 60°F (16°C)
- Tonight: Becoming clear. Low 39°F (4°C)
- Tomorrow: Sunny and warm. High 64°F (17°C)
- Tomorrow Night: Partly cloudy. Low 39°F (4°C)
- Sunday and Monday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. High 54°F (12°C), Low 41°F (5°C)
Cassini Scientists Discover Liquid Water on Saturn Moon Enceladus

By Kenneth Chang

The discovery of eruptions of liquid water on a little-known moon of Saturn has added it to the small, highly select group of places in the solar system that could plausibly support life.

The moon, Enceladus (pronounced en-SELL-ahd-us), is only 300 miles wide, and planetary scientists expected that it would be nothing more than a frozen chunk of ice and rock. Instead, NASA’s Cassini spacecraft has spotted the eruptions.

“It’s startling,” said Dr. Carolyn C. Porco of the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo., leader of the imaging team for Cassini. A package of 11 scientific papers about Enceladus appears in Friday’s issue of the journal Science. “I wouldn’t be surprised to see the planetary community clamoring for a future exploratory expedition to land on the south polar terrain of Enceladus,” said Porco, lead author of one of the Science papers. “We have found an environment that is potentially suitable for living organisms.”

Life requires at least three essential ingredients — water, heat and carbon-based molecules — and Enceladus may possess all three. As Cassini flew through the plumes of tiny ice crystals rising into space from the eruptions, it also detected simple carbon-based molecules like methane and carbon dioxide, which suggest more complicated carbon molecules might lie on the moon’s surface.

The lack of a crater suggests that the heat is not the result of a meteor impact. Based on the initial observations, some scientists think that this warm region near the south pole may have somehow persisted for millions or billions of years, sufficient time for life to arise.

“Is it an exciting place?” said James W. Head III, a professor of geological sciences at Brown University, who was not involved with any of the research reported in Science. “That’s what exploration is all about. You go out there. It isn’t A. It isn’t B. It isn’t C. It’s D, none of the above.”

Permanent Israeli-Palestinian Border Among Olmert’s Goals

By Greg Myre

In the most detailed description yet of his plans if elected prime minister this month, Ehud Olmert, Israel’s acting prime minister and the front-runner, said that he intended to set the country’s permanent borders by 2010 and that they are likely to run near the West Bank separation barrier.

Olmert also said he planned further development in Israel’s largest settlement, Maale Adumim, which would eventually link up with nearby East Jerusalem. Palestinians vehemently oppose such a move, because it would isolate the Arab parts of East Jerusalem. The United States has also objected.

Olmert, whose centrist party is heavily favored in the parliamentary elections on March 28, spoke in interviews with two Israeli newspapers, The Jerusalem Post, and Haaretz, which posted selections on its Web site on Thursday.

Olmert says he is pursuing the plan outlined by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has been comatose for more than two months after a stroke. Sharon was intentionally vague, though, while Olmert has become increasingly explicit.

Some of Olmert’s critics have questioned whether Sharon would have proposed the same steps, particularly in the wake of the victory by Hamas, the radical Islamic group, in Palestinian legislative elections. But Olmert seems to believe that Israeli voters see the Hamas victory as an opportunity to set their own future borders without needing to negotiate with a Palestinian government, since Hamas refuses to recognize Israel.

Many Israelis, including Sharon and Olmert, used to dream of expanding their state through the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But in recent years the two leaders have conceded that the more important goal is to keep Israeli democratic, secure and predominantly Jewish. Moreover, the past five years of violence have made many Israelis want to separate entirely from the Palestinian population.

Doing so will entail removing many more Jewish settlements from the West Bank and consolidating others.

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U.N. Creates Rapid Relief Fund For Disasters

By Stephanie Strom

The United Nations on Thursday announced the creation of a $500 million fund that will be used to respond to disasters sooner, saving lives and lowering the cost of providing relief.

The new pool of money, known as the Central Emergency Response Fund, has already attracted $256 million in pledges from governments ranging from Britain, which has pledged $70 million, to Kazakhstan and Thailand, which are putting $25,900 and $10,000 into the fund, respectively.

In the future, it will accept donations from corporations and eventually individuals.

Canada has pledged $17.24 million, the United States $10 million and on Thursday the Netherlands surprised U.N. officials by doubling its original $11.9 million pledge.

The money will be made available to U.N. agencies responding to food, medical and other emergency needs immediately following a disaster.

China Criticizes United States
On Human Rights

By Joseph Kahn

China criticized the human rights record of the United States on Thursday, arguing that racial discrimination remained pervasive and that the American military abused prisoners held at detention centers abroad.

In a sharply worded response to the annual State Department report on human rights conditions globally, which was released in Washington on Wednesday, China’s State Council, or Cabinet, said the American government should concentrate on improving its own rights record.

“As in previous years, the State Department pointed the finger at human rights situations in more than 190 countries and regions, including China, but kept silent on the serious violations of human rights in the United States,” the Chinese report said.

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Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are writ
en by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opinion staff.

Disests are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are writ
en by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not neces
sarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged
and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submis
sions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge,
Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483.
All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter let
ters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. Col
umns without italics are written by Tech staff.

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March 10, 2006

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudokux.com; see also solution, page 13.
Bad Taste: How to Offend Everyone

Chorallaries Manage to Offend Everyone
Bad Taste Heavy on Vulgarity, Light on Singing, But Still Quite the Experience

CONCERT REVIEW

The Chorallaries and their alumni dodge a horde of paper products at the end of their Bad Taste concert Saturday evening.

By Natania Antler

T he MIT Chorallaries certainly delivered what they promised late last Saturday night. Their concert was indeed not for the faint of heart or stomach, and, despite some small qualms I had with their performance, I thought all in all it was quite a fun experience. After all, any a cappella group performance, I thought all in all it was quite a fun experience.

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By Andrew Lee

Animal Collective Wows Some, Loses Others

Indie Band Brings Avalon Ballroom Audience From Doubt to Satisfaction

CONCERT REVIEW

Though playing continuously for half an hour, this had to be the last time I wanted to be after a typically dread. Gombosi had already composed three works from Child's piece mitigates the sorrow surrounding a death. The two outer movements are gentle. The first one is a (crucial) miner's flashlight on his forehead, the other is led off by Deeken's skidding, monotonic guitar grinding out a riff reminiscent of Arcade...
**Even Vampires Think Abortion is Wrong**

*Russian Sci-fi Movie 'Night Watch' Muddies the Waters of Good vs. Evil*  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

"Aquamarine" is a film about cowboys who fall in love with a talking monkey and a man in a bright yellow suit voiced by Will Ferrell. The answer, surely, is this probably make you want to hit some more. So, for all you non-pregnant girls out there, don't see 'Aquamarine.' This is the same kind of synopsis for well...

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**What's That Smell? Oh, It's 'Aquamarine'**  
Written by Sergei Lukyanenko  
Directed by Timur Bekmambetov  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

"Night Watch" is a movie about beautiful people, beautiful scenery and some terrific acting. The answer, surely, is that you can take it with you everywhere, and it will probably sound very familiar to you.

---

**Curious George**  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

*Curious George* is a movie that tells a story strikingly similar to some of the oldest tales of love in our society. (Andrew Guerra)

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**Brokeback Mountain**  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

"Brokeback Mountain" is definitely a movie that tells a story strikingly similar to some of the oldest tales of love in our society. (Andrew Guerra)

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**Eight Below**  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

*Eight Below* is a nature movie riding the waves of last year's successful "March of the Penguins" and "Grizzly Man." Disney decided to hop on the bandwagon, but it sure looks good. The answer, surely, is that you can take it with you everywhere, and it will probably sound very familiar to you.

---

**Firewall**  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

"Firewall" is a film that's interested in the issue of electronic theft. The answer, surely, is that you can take it with you everywhere, and it will probably sound very familiar to you.

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**Match Point**  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

"Match Point" is inspired by the very real events of the 1972 Olympics, when eleven Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists. This perfectly executed film advocates peace and wisdom. With this film, Spielberg intends to show that any conflict affects the globe, and that the events in the Middle East are as relevant to our country's future as those within our own borders. (Kevin Der)

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**Syriana**  
By Alice Macdonald  
March 10, 2006

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REVIEW

LaGroceria Offers A Piece of the North End

In Cambridge

To Campus

By Jillian Berry

LaGroceria is a hidden Italian restaurant within walking distance of MIT. Although it’s next to Toscanini’s, I had neither heard of nor seen it before. While nearly all of the restaurants near campus have two or three lines, dancing with violent and exaggerated movements to loud hip-hop music that shook the entire theatre, the men were dressed in tuxedos with lavish capes, while the ladies were dressed in a wide array of Spanish dressing dresses of black, white, and red. Even through the scene where Romeo and Juliet first meet, the rousing music shone on the edges of the stage and the music was so deafening that the magic of the moment was completely lost. Despite the obvious effort that the directors put into giving the show a unique ambiance, the majority of the actors let that effort go to waste with forced acting and lack of depth and nuance. From beginning to end, the usual wit and tender emotion of the script was missing. Unfortunately, most actors did not grasp the opportunity afforded them by the audience’s nearness to deliver a rich performance. For example, the opening scene that features the famous line, “No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb to signify.” was played away, there is no telling if the actors did not realize that the whole scene was a play on words.

In the end, the only things that were simple and sparse, and only the lighting was cut, with questions. Once this episode passed, however, we were able to enjoy the meal in a relatively relaxed and enjoyable environment.

As bread and butter were complimentary, we did not feel the need to order an appetizer. We were a bit put off at being so quickly assaulted with questions. Twice this happened, however, we were able to enjoy the meal in a relatively relaxed and enjoyable environment.

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Physics Department Likely to Admit More Students

LBGT@mit, the MIT Race-Sexuality Task Force, GAMIT, & Q-Café present:

a workshop on racism
facilitated by the MIT Diversity Peer-to-Peer Educators

Mon. 3/13, 6:00pm
The Rainbow Lounge, Walker, 50-005

Join MIT & Boston-Area students and staff for a FREE Dinner &
Discussion
The MIT Race-Sexuality Task Force will be available to hear your
feedback and experiences at MIT

ALL ARE WELCOME.

For more info or to sign up for any of these organizations, contact Abigail Francis
(afran@mit.edu & 3-0684).

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...and best of all - no boring lectures
Augustine to Advise Air Force, But Can He Even Read Report?

Lincoln Labs, from Page 1

Lincoln Lab-led report itself is on the list, according to Nira Schwartz, the dismissed TRW engineer who filed the civil lawsuit.

Also on the list is the MIT docu-

ment that lists the six issues that Godfrey will be investigating, ac-

cording to Reif. If Augustine can’t read the dis-

puted report or the questions that have been raised, how can he advise

Godfrey’s investigation?

“Godfrey was going to say that, I don’t think DOD’s going to like that,” Reif said. “Let’s see how the process evolves.”

¶ How independent will the in-

vestigation be?

The choice of investigator and ad-

dvice illustrates the difficulty in find-

ing independent experts in the small,

classified world of missile defense.

The Defense Department is both the principal beneficiary of the dis-
pputed report — the Lincoln-led team’s positive findings helped the

Missile Defense Agency end a crimi-
nal investigation into fraud in the

report — and now the entity inves-
tigating whether the report’s findings
were wrong.

Reif said, “Augustine may be able to say at the end, ‘Look, I don’t subscribe to this conclusion, because it was im-
portant for me to see this, and unfor-
tunately I wasn’t allowed to see it.”

¶ Did MIT researchers end up

giving the government exactly what it asked for?

A large part of the dispute here is about the responsibilities of scientists who agree, under carefully-defined

parameters, to prepare reports for the

government. Should they bend over backward to report possible errors or

flaws in the data they used to draw

their conclusions, or may they ethi-
cally stick to a narrower scope?

In this case, the disputed report was commissioned under a charter whose

narrowness was virtually un-

precedented in the history of the re-

port, known as POET, between the

Missile Defense Agency and its fed-

erally-funded research partners.

“Unlike almost any other POET report,” said Edward F. Crawley, the pro-

fessor who conducted MIT’s pre-

liminary inquiry, “they were tightly constrained, or they were told to be tightly constrained” (Crawley made

his remarks in a 2002 conversation

with Postol, according to a transcript

of the conversation.)

Postol takes a broader view:

“When you write a scientific paper

with results, and you present the 

results based on data that was taken, you explain how you corrected

the data for problems in the measure-

ment. That’s part of the procedure.”

In this case, “they simply said that there’s no problem, and they didn’t

describe the problems with the data

acquisition. That is fraud, period,”

said Philip E. Coyle III, a professor

who conducted MIT’s pre-

liminary inquiry.

¶ Can Augustine read the dis-
pputed report?

If Augustine can’t read the dis-
pputed report, and still maintains an office at the

group that was responsible for writing the

report itself. A senior Air Force scientist and administrator, Brendan Godfrey, will conduct an investigation, advised by a retired

Livermore Labs chairwoman, Nira Schwartz.

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization is renamed the

Missile Defense Agency.

January Brown accepts Crawley’s recommendation for a full-blown

investigation into Postol’s allegations. The full investigation into Postol’s allegations.

March 23

President Ronald Reagan announces the Strategic Defense Initiative, an ambitious proposal denriled by critics as “Star Wars,” to protect U.S. territory from mass missile attack.

June 24

The BMDO and its contractors, including TRW, conduct a test, known as the Integrated Flight Test 1A, to see whether the TRW system can tell the difference between warheads and decoys. The test is a failure.

November 4

Crawley rescues his earlier draft finding, and recommends a full investigation into Postol’s allegations.

January

Brown accepts Crawley’s recommendation for a full-blown investigation. At this point, the MIT Policies require that an investigation begin “promptly.”

December 1

President Vast releases a statement that the Institute has so far been unable to investigate Professor Postol’s allegations because the Missile Defense Agency has not allowed an investigation of the POET report. “MIT has identified a panel of distinguished outside investigators, all of whom have

been unable to investigate Professor Postol’s allegations. MIT has been working to establish a process that permits these issues to be

investigated fully and objectively. To achieve this goal, MIT must explore with the relevant federal agencies the steps

necessary to permit the investigation to proceed.”

December 2

The Missile Defense Agency releases a statement that it has denied MIT’s request because there have already been enough investigations into the Integrated Flight Test 1A.

February

MIT and the Department of Defense announce an agreement to end the deadlock. MIT will call off its efforts to investigate the report itself. A senior Air Force scientist and administrator, Brendan Godfrey, will conduct an investigation, advised by a retired Livermore Labs chairwoman, Nira Schwartz.
Solution to Sudoku

6 3 1 4 7 8 2 9 5
9 7 4 3 5 2 1 6 8
8 2 5 1 9 6 7 3 4
7 6 8 2 1 5 9 4 3
2 1 9 8 4 3 6 5 7
4 5 3 7 6 9 8 1 2
1 9 2 5 8 4 3 7 6
5 8 7 6 3 1 4 2 9
3 4 6 9 2 7 5 8 1

Solution to Crossword

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Pearson’s SAT Scoring Errors Affect 4,000 Students

The scoring errors disclosed this week on thousands of the College Board’s SAT tests were made by a company that is one of the largest players in the expanding standard-
ing testing business, handling millions of tests each year.

The mistakes, which the company, Pearson Educational Measurement, acknowledged Thursday, raised fresh questions about the reliability of the kinds of high-stakes tests that increasingly dominate education at all levels. Neither Pearson, which handles state testing across the country, nor the College Board detected the scoring problems until two students came forward with complaints.

“The story here is not that they made a mistake in the scanning and scoring but that they seem to have no fail-safe to alert them directly and immediately of a mistake,” said Dean of Admissions Marilite Jones. “To depend on test-takers who challenge the scores to learn about system failure is not good.”

These were not the first major scoring problems that Pearson has experienced. The company agreed in 2002 to settle a large lawsuit over errors in scoring 8,000 tests in Minnesota that prevented several hundred high-school seniors from graduating. It has also made significant scoring errors in Washington and Virginia.

After those problems, company officials had assured clients that they had vastly improved their quality control. But the new problems on the October SAT turned out to be the most significant scoring errors that the College Board had experienced. Pearson said Thursday that the SAT errors, which affected 4,000 students out of 495,000 who took the October test, arose partly because of excessive moisture that caused the answer sheets to expand before they were scanned at the company’s large test-processing site in Austin, Texas.

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The company said in a statement that it was taking steps to make sure that “this unfortunate situation will not happen again.” Chiara Cioletti, the College Board’s vice president for public affairs, said Thursday that the College Board has continuing confidence in Pearson. “Pearson says that they now understand the technical issues fully and we know they can control for those issues now,” she said. “We are confident of that because our operations people have been talking to their operations people steadily.”

The College Board has said that most of the students affected actually had higher scores than were reported to colleges. In some cases the scores were off by as many as 400 points out of a possible 2,400 on the three-part exam covering mathematics, reading and writing. Pearson said Thursday that it had examined the scoring of all the subsequent SATs, which were administered in November, December, and January, and found no further problems.

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They certainly said in the course of our lawsuit that they were going to, but already had, implemented new quality-control measures,” he said.

The Pearson testing unit, the largest subsidiary of Pearson PLC, the giant publishing company which also owns The Financial Times, won the sizable contract for scoring the SAT exams in 2003, taking over some previously承包 and administered by the College Board for the Education Testing Service.

It was one of many contracts that have helped make Pearson a giant in a field that has grown enormously since President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Law in 2002, spurring demand for state testing. Indeed, for 20 years, Pearson has worked on the Texas testing program that was the template for Bush’s national testing initiative. Nationally, it scored more than 110 million answer sheets last year.

Even as the company explained what went wrong Thursday, new complaints emerged from students and educators who questioned how they could continue to have confidence in the nation’s testing apparatus.

Joe Giglio, director of admissions at St. Peter’s College in Jersey City, N.J., said, “It seems that there is a need for some sort of outside auditing of their processes to insure the integrity of the testing from this point forward.”

Philip Benoit, a spokesman for Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsyl-
vania, said Thursday that at least one applicant, whose SAT score was revised upward by 110 points, now qualified for the school’s merit-based Marshall Scholarship of $12,500.

Brantice Bradley, a senior at the Williams School in Connecticut, who found out that her reported score on the writing section of the SAT exam should have been 700 rather than 690, said one of her friends had also had an Advanced Placement score raised last year.

“You have to wonder how many things go unchecked,” she said.

The SAT errors, which the Col-
lege Board started to investigate only after two students questioned the scores they received in late Decem-
ber, were unprecedented.

As testing has expanded dramati-
cally in the last decade, many more errors have occurred and almost all of them have been detected by stu-
dents, parents or school officials challenging the accuracy of scores. Pearson said Thursday that it did not learn of the SAT problems until early February.

Some testing industry executives acknowledged Thursday that the highly-visible SAT errors will add to the pressures the industry is already facing.

“There’s no question that the testing industry is challenged,” said Stuart R. Kahl, president and chief executive of Measured Progress, a nonprofit testing publisher in Dover, N.H., that provides testing services to 24 states. “But with the growth in business, most companies are implementing systems to make this job doable, so I don’t get a sense that there is likely to be an exponential growth in errors.”

But Kahl noted that standardized tests at all educational levels are constantly being revised. “The SATs have been undergoing a lot of changes,” he said Thursday.

For now, college officials, who were caught by surprise by the mis-
takes at the height of the fall admissions season, said they were working to take the revised scores into account so that students are not disadvan-
taged by the scoring errors, almost all of which lowered student scores.

The College Board said that 83 percent of the score errors were be-
tween 10 and 40 points.
Friends and Family Remember Singh As Brilliant, Gregarious

Singh, from Page 1

Moss, who opened the service, said that although he had only arrived at Media Lab this year, people told him, “you’ve got to meet this guy Push Singh.” “Push embodied Media Lab,” and “we are intent on continuing his work,” he said.

Glorianna Davenport, a Media Lab principal research associate, described Singh’s gregarious nature, as he would sit in common area “waiting for some unsuspecting person” to come by with whom to have a conversation. “Push will never be sitting on that bench anymore,” Davenport said.

Bo Morgan G, who was mentored by Singh, said he first wondered, “is he smart or is he brilliant?” He said he decided the answer was brilliant, to much laughter from the attendees. Morgan said he tried to avoid asking Singh for anything, because he knew Singh would try very hard to fulfill that wish. Morgan broke down when he remembered Singh once saying, “It would be a shame to lose you Bo.” He pledged to “inspire my students and children” as Push inspired us all.

Another friend, who met Singh as an undergraduate at MIT, said he became friends because Singh, a total stranger at the time, had called one night to discuss a philosophy paper. He eventually hung up on Singh because it was too strange, but this was the unusual beginning of a friendship that would last throughout graduate school.

At the end, another friend of Singh’s played a slide show with pictures of Singh as a child, grown-up wearing a graduation cap and gown, with his family, and smiling with his girlfriend Barbara Barry, accompanied by music and audio of Singh describing his research. A family representative at the memorial service said there was “no answer to why and how” of what happened, and read excerpts from Singh’s writing as a 13-year-old who wanted to know the “workings of the world.”

Singh, 33, was found dead in his apartment as a result of an apparent suicide on Feb. 28. He is survived by his parents, Mahender and Kulwant Singh, two sisters, Vindi and Raminder, and his girlfriend Barbara Barry, according to a Tech Talk article. A Media Lab fellowship for undergraduates will be established in Singh’s memory, Moss said.

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-MIT Concert Band President

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**Sports**

**Sport Taekwondo Hosts National Tourney**

By Christine Lee

The MIT Sport Taekwondo Team is ranked second in the nation after competing in the National Collegiate Taekwondo Championships held at MIT on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24-25. Over 400 competitors from over 100 schools, including 30 competitors from MIT, competed in an exciting match of forms and full-contact, Olympic-style sparring.

This national level competition attracted some of the best collegiate athletes from all over the country, including world-class competitors like 2004's U.S. Olympic silver medalist Nia Abbadi. As a team, MIT placed third in the Championship Division (black belts), first in the Novice Division (color belts), and second overall to University of California Berkeley.

Co-captain Erica Y. Chan '07 was named female athlete of the year. Co-captain Bobby B. Ren G and Rosemary E. Pike '07 won silver and Ryan B. Huang '06 and Andrew Selbst taking bronze in their respective divisions.

In novice forms, MIT won gold left and right. Rene R. Chen '07 and John C. Ho G ranked first in the red belt division. Richard L. Wang '07 and Francis X. S. Chambers G dominated the blue belts, and beginners Christopher J. Han '09 and Christine M. Lee '09 took gold in the yellow belt division.

The tournament was a giant taekwondo arena. Forms competition took place on Friday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Memorial Drive. MIT placed second in the Championship Division, with Chan, team co-captain Bobby B. Ren G, and Rosemary E. Pike '07 winning silver and Ryan B. Huang '06 and Andrew Selbst taking bronze in their respective divisions.

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Conor F. Madigan G (right) sparred with Daniel Eum of University of California Berkeley, winning 5-6. The MIT Sport Taekwondo Club hosted the 31st National Collegiate Taekwondo Association Championships (NCTA) in Johnson Athletic Center on Saturday, Feb. 25, and came in 2nd place overall.

Chang was also tabbed for the All-Star Team for the third time while Brian J. Quatrocchi '06, Jason Chen '07, and Spencer K. August '08 earned their second career selections. Matt L. Getscher '09, Rigo Kopylos '09, and Michael N. Beregovsky '06 earned their first All-Star selections from the NFC.

MIT had a record-high five representatives on the Women's All-Star team. Genna L. Mendel '06 earned the third selection of her career while Shanna G. Gu '07, Kika A. Tomczak '06, and Joanna W. Tong '08 collected their first conference accolades.

ESPN names D'Auria to team Academic All-America honor for the third consecutive year.

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**Present**

Dr. Rima Khalaf Hunaidi

United Nations Assistant Secretary General,

Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) at UNDP

**Tuesday, March 14, 2006**

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

E51-095

**Sponsored by the Center for International Studies**

**How Were the Arab Peoples Betrayed?**

Findings of the UNDP Arab Human Development Reports

**SPORTS SHORTS**

**Chang Named Fencer of the Year**

By James Kramer

For the second year in a row, the Northeast Fencing Conference select- ed Junior Trevor T. Chang '06 as the Male Fencer of the Year. He became the only fencer in conference his- tory to earn the honor back-to-back seasons after posting the league's best individual record of 23-1.

Chang was also tabbed for the All-Star Team for the third time while Brian J. Quatrocchi '06, Jason Chen '07, and Spencer K. August '08 earned their second career selections. Matt L. Getscher '09, Rigo Kopylos '09, and Michael N. Beregovsky '06 earned their first All-Star selections from the NFC.

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