Prefrosh Arrive For Preview Weekend

By Jenny Zhang

Camus Preview Weekend for the Class of 2010 kicked off yesterday, with campus tours, parent and student welcomes, and, of course, class lectures for high school students who were probably missing class to be here. Ben Jones, communications manager for the office of admissions, said 875 of the 1,474 students admitted, or 59 percent, registered for CPW, comparable to last year’s percentage. 740 parents registered, up from 689 accompanying 864 students last year.

At the CPW Festival held in Johnson Athletics Center, prospective freshmen were encouraged to make their own t-shirts, watch a live marimba group, and visit various booths of interest. Weese said that the weekends we’ve made over the past week.

“We’re very pleased with the program,” Weese said that the program has been “really cool.” He has a “trade secret,” he said that 26 people were moving forward.” Weese said that the program has been “really cool.” He has a “trade secret,” he said that 26 people were moving forward.”

Hackers Have Blast With Caltech Cannon

By Marissa Vogt

One year after pranksters from the California Institute of Technology infiltrated the MIT campus during Campus Preview Weekend, the Fleming House cannon, a familiar Caltech landmark, appeared in front of the Green Building early Wednesday morning to usher in the arrival of this year’s CPW.

A press release on the Web site http://www.mitcannon.com, which went online shortly after the cannon appeared, announced that “Howe & Son Moving Company has completed its latest job: moving a Spanish-American War cannon from the pits of Panama, CA to sunny Cambridge, MA.”

The cannon was adorned with a 24 karat gold-plated brass rat, which weighed 21 pounds and took about 1,000 manhours to machine, said an individual calling himself Tim Hose, a representative of the hackers responsible for moving the cannon. Hose said that the ring is placed as if the hack began in December, and the hack was funded by those individuals and anonymous donations, he said. At Caltech, the cannon’s disappearance has been received in good humor by both administrators and students.

Police Say Ex-Sophomore Had Child Pornography

By Keith J. Winston

A former MIT student was charged yesterday with possession of child pornography on his Next House dormitory-room computer, Massachusetts authorities said.

The former student, Debasish Sirac, 19 years old, was registered as a sophomore last fall, when he served as an associate advisor for Next House freshmen. He is not currently enrolled or living on campus, said Denise Brehm, an MIT spokeswoman.

The police became interested in Sirac as part of an investigation into peer-to-peer file-sharing of pornographic images over the Internet, the attorney general’s office said.

At some time in the past several months, police executed a search warrant at Next House and found child pornography on Sirac’s computer, according to Terence Burke, a spokesman for the attorney general. Sirac will be arraigned on two counts of possession of child pornography at the Cambridge District Court on April 28, Burke said. The crime is punishable by up to five years in state prison.

Institute Screw Contest Begins

By Marissa Vogt

The annual Institute screw contest, sponsored by the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, began Wednesday in the Student Center. Commonly referred to as the “Big Screw,” the award is given to the faculty or staff member who students feel has screwed them over most.

Members of the MIT community can cast one-cent votes throughout the week. Each nominee selects a charity, and all of the money collected is donated to the winner’s charity. Additionally, the winner’s name is engraved on a “self-handed, four-foot aluminum wood screw” and he or she is given the screw for safekeeping.

Telephones calls to Sirac’s home in Bronx, N.Y., were not returned.

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Sen. Republicans Negotiate Compromise On Immigration

By Rachel L. Swams
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

A group of Senate Republicans reached agreement on Wednesday night on a compromise proposal that, if passed, they hope can garner bipartisan support and bring passage of a bill on the future of the nation’s 11 million illegal immigrants.

The compromise, which followed a day of negotiations, was endorsed by Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, the majority leader. But he did not include the commitment of all Republicans, much less Democrats who have backed an approach that would guarantee nearly all illegal immigrants a path toward citizenship.

As outlined by Senate Republicans late Wednesday, the compromise would place illegal immigrants in three categories:

— Those who have lived in the country at least five years would be put on a path toward guaranteed citizenship, provided that they remained employed, paid fines and back taxes, and learned English, a senior Republican aide said. The aide said this group accounted for about 7 million of the roughly 11 million illegal immigrants believed to be living here.

— Those who have lived here for two to five years, said to number about three million, would have to leave the country briefly before reporting to a U.S. port of entry, where they would be classified as temporary workers. They would be allowed to apply for citizenship but would have no guarantee of obtaining it. Those who did not wish to have leave after participating in the temporary worker program for six years.

— The remaining 1 million or so, those who have lived in the country less than two years, would be required to leave. They could apply for temporary worker status but would not be guaranteed it.

Senators of both parties and their aides huddled in meetings throughout the day, trying to hash out a deal by week’s end. The deadlock set by Frist for a vote on an immigration bill. For the first time, senior Democrats, including Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, joined in the negotiations, an acknowledgment that they lacked the backing to get a vote on broader immigration legislation.

The Senate will decide Friday whether the compromise should be considered for a vote. But lawmakers, who gave impassioned partisan speeches on the floor, remained deadlocked over its details late Wednesday. Senators warned that if the negotiations collapsed, Congress might fail to take action this year on an issue that has riveted the nation and pushed tens of thousands of illegal immigrants and their supporters into the streets for rallies across the country.

Frist blamed the stalemate on Democrats, who refused to allow Republicans to vote on major amendments and have used a parliamentary tactic that will force lawmakers to decide Thursday whether the bill more favorable to illegal immigrants should be considered for a vote.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the minority leader, blamed the Republicans, saying they had continued to “stonewall” by seeking to pass amendments that would gut the broad legalization bill, approved by the Judiciary Committee last week with bipartisan support.

Libby Testifies Bush Authorized Declassification of Iraq Report

By David Johnston
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

Vice President Dick Cheney’s former chief of staff testified that he was authorized by President Bush, through Cheney, in July 2003 to disclose key portions of what until then was a classified prewar intelligence estimate on Iraq, according to a new court filing.

The testimony by the former ofificer, I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby Jr., cited in a court filing by the government made late Wednesday, provides the first indication that Bush has long ago said that his aides had said information that may have played a direct role in authorizing the disclosure of the intelligence report on Iraq. The disclosure occurred at a moment when the White House was trying to defend itself against charges that it had inflated the case against Saddam Hussein.

The president has the authority to declassify information, and Libby indicated in his grand jury testimony that he believed Bush’s instructions — which prosecutors said Libby regarded as “unique in his recollection” — gave him legal cover to talk with a reporter about the intelligence. Among the key judgments in the report, called a National Intelligence Estimate, was that Saddam Hussein was probably seeking fuel for nuclear weapons. Libby did not assert in his testimony, first reported on the Web site of The New York Sun, that Bush or Cheney had authorized him to talk with the reporter about the intelligence.

The White House refused to discuss Libby’s account, or say whether it differed from the president’s. The administration has collected several collection of facts, which the two men described in interviews with prosecutors. “We’re not commenting on an ongoing legal proceeding,” said Scott McClellan, Bush’s press secretary.

Democrats seized on the disclosure, and demanded that Bush — who has said he was determined to get to the bottom of the leak case — now disclose his role. “In light of today’s shocking revelation, President Bush must fully disclose his participation in the selective leaking of classified information,” said the Democratic leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said: “If the disclosure is true, it’s breathtaking. The president is revealed as the leaker in chief.”

Congo Holds Two Activists Who Assailed Oil Deals

By John Donnelly
THE BOSTON GLOBE
PRELIMINARY SYNDICATION

Republic of Congo authorities Thursday arrested two activists — who had sharply criticized the country’s oil deals as corrupt — for allegedly defrauding two organizations, according to Global Witness, a London-based group that has called on African countries to be more transparent in their oil contracts.

Christian Fosso, president of Rencontre pétrole et Paix et les Droits de l’Homme, and Brice Makossi of the Catholic Justice and Peace Committee, were being held in jail and at first were denied access to a lawyer, according to Sarah Wykes, a Global Witness researcher. She said that attorney Maitre Senga eventually was allowed to see Fosso and Makossi.

Senga could not be reached for comment last night. Two senior Congolese officials also could not be reached by telephone.

Late last year, the World Bank delayed Congo’s application for debt relief because of what it called irregularities in Brazzaville’s oil contracts, including the existence of numerous private companies controlled by government officials who sold the country’s oil by using a maze of transactions.

Britain and Ireland Give Deadline To Form Ulster Government

By Barry Meier
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland on Thursday gave Northern Ireland’s rival Protestant and Roman Catholic parties until this fall to work out their differences on their stalled program for sharing power.

In a joint statement, Blair and Ahern laid out plans to call together the elected officials to Northern Ireland’s mothballed legislature on May 15, in the hope that the officials can agree on appointment ministers to an executive branch. If the ministers are not appointed by Nov. 24, the British and Irish governments will take over running the province.

“Be in no doubt, at the conclusion of this period, we either resolve to go forward on the basis of mature democracy, or we call on time and seek another way to go,” Blair said, speaking in Armagh. “Status is not an option.”

FDA to Intensify Oversight of Heart Devices on Market

By Barry Meier
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

The move would be the first time the FDA would have outside expertise to help it review the safety of devices already on the market, a top agency official says.

The Food and Drug Administration plans to strengthen how it monitors critical heart devices like defibrillators by appointing outside experts to help it decide whether to permit the sale of a new device.

Among other proposals, the group, the Heart Rhythm Society, may doctors who implant devices prepares to release a report recommending panels to help it decide whether to permit the sale of a new device.

The agency’s decision comes as a medical group that represents doctors who implant devices prepares to release a report recommending panels to help it decide whether to permit the sale of a new device.

By Brian H. Tang
THE TECH

President George W. Bush is expected to announce Friday that his administration is seeking a new, direct role in authorizing executions by lethal injection.

Mr. Bush, who early in his presidency directed federal officials to use lethal injection to execute federal prisoners and to allow states to seek federal permission to use the method, has faced a backlash from death penalty opponents who say the method is cruel and unusual because it prolongs suffering.

Mr. Bush has not publicly endorsed the method and has referred to it only as one of several potential methods that he would consider for federal prisoners. He has allowed states to seek federal permission to use lethal injection, but the Bush administration has not yet approved any states to use the method.

Mr. Bush last week directed the Justice Department to begin developing a federal lethal injection protocol, but the President has not indicated what method he believes should be used.

A pool of 15 states白宫 totally or partially reliance on lethal injection, which is prohibited in 10 states.

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

Such a shift in the administration’s position is seen as a direct challenge to the state of Texas, which has steadily pushed the Bush administration to allow it to use lethal injection.

Texas is planning to execute 15 prisoners by June, and it has argued that lethal injection is the only method available to it.

Those arguments have been met with vigorous opposition from Bush administration officials, who have said that a federal protocol should be developed for all states.

The Texas attorney general, John Cornyn, a Republican, has said that allowing states to use lethal injection would be a violation of federal law.

The Justice Department has said that it will not allow states to use lethal injection unless the states meet federal standards for the method.

The department has said that states must provide a confirmed death sentence, that they must provide death row inmates with the opportunity to appeal, and that they must provide a method for states to periodically review whether the method is being used.

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McCormack: U.S. Not Candidate For U.N. Human Rights Council

By Warren Hoge

The United States said Thursday it would not be a candidate for the new U.N. Human Rights Council, which was approved last month by the General Assembly with Washington nearly alone in opposition.

Sean McCormack, the State Department spokesman, said that the United States would sit out the first election for the council in May but would support other countries with strong rights records and would be likely to run for a seat a year from now.

The council, which will hold its first meeting in Geneva in June, replaces the human rights commission, which had been widely discredited for allowing notorious rights abusers like Sudan and Zimbabwe on the panel.

The election of the 47 new members is scheduled for May 9, and as of Thursday, 40 countries, including China, Cuba and Iran, had formally signed up to run.

Thursday’s announcement by the State Department followed weeks of intense consultations throughout the government that appeared to many U.N. officials to be preparing for the ground on American participation on the panel. A number of members of Congress, including some of the United Nations’ harshest Republican critics, had joined rights groups in lobbying the Bush administration to make the United States a candidate.

Although it voted against the council last month, saying that the new membership requirements still would not do enough to keep major rights violators out, the United States had signaled its desire to be cooperative, agreeing to the funding of the new panel and pledging to support it.

“This is a major retrenchment in America’s long struggle to advance the cause of human rights around the world and it is a profound signal of U.S. isolation at a time when we need to work cooperatively with our Security Council partners,” said Rep. Tom Lantos of California, the leading Democrat on the House International Relations Committee and founding co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

McCormack: U.S. Not Candidate For U.N. Human Rights Council

Gonzales Asserts That Bush May Have Legal Authority for Wiretaps

By Eric Lichtblau

WASHINGTON

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales suggested for the first time on Thursday that the president might have the legal authority to order wiretapping of international calls and e-mail messages to or from the United States.

“I’m not going to rule it out,” Gonzales said when asked about that possibility at a House Judiciary Committee hearing.

The attorney general made his comments, which critics said reflected a broadened view of the president’s authority, as President Bush offered another strong defense of his decision to authorize the National Security Agency to eavesdrop without warrants on international calls and e-mail messages to or from the United States.

Bush, in an appearance in North Carolina, told a questioner who attacked the program that he would “absolutely not” apologize for authorizing it.

“You can come to whatever conclusion you want” about the merits of the program, Bush said. “The conclusion is I’m not going to apologize for what I did on the terrorist surveillance program.”

At the House hearing, Gonzales faced tough questioning from Democrats and Republicans but declined to discuss many operational details.

Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., the Wisconsin Republican who is chairman of the Judiciary Committee and one of the administration’s staunchest allies, accused the administration of “stonewalling.”

“Mr. Attorney General, how can we discharge our oversight responsibilities if every time we ask a pointed question, you’re not going to answer?” Sensenbrenner asked.

“Congress has an inherent constitutional responsibility to do oversight. We are attempting to discharge those responsibilities,” Gonzales replied.

The House and Senate have conducted limited inquiries into the surveillance program, which many Democrats contend is illegal.

Gonzales Asserts That Bush May Have Legal Authority for Wiretaps

Bird Flu Found in a Dead Swan in Scotland

By Sarah Lyall

LONDON

A swan dead in eastern Scotland has tested positive for the deadly strain of bird flu, government officials said, making it the first recorded case of the disease in a wild bird in Britain.

The bird, believed to be a native mute swan, was discovered eight days ago in the harbor at Cellardyke, a small coastal town in Fife, northeast of Edinburgh. Officials have established a 1.8-mile protection zone around the spot where it was found to prevent the movement of poultry in and out of the area.

Officials hastened to emphasize that although the swan had died from the virulent A(H5N1) strain of flu, there was no immediate danger to humans and no reason to panic, at least not yet, to the poultry supply. Although more than 100 people have died in other countries from bird flu, which is extremely deadly when passed on to humans, the victims had worked in close contact with birds or handled birds that had died from the flu.

Bird flu has been gradually making its way across Europe from Asia, where it first emerged. It has struck birds in Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and Greece, but until now had not been reported in Britain. But Britain has been bracing itself. CORBIS, the government’s emergency planning group, met Thursday morning in London with officials from the environment and health departments, the Scottish executive and the prime minister’s office to map out government contingency plans.

Bird Flu Found in a Dead Swan in Scotland

Russia’s Gazprom and Armenia Reach Gas Deal

By Andrew E. Kramer

In a settlement of the latest natural gas dispute in the former Soviet Union, Armenia will receive natural gas supplies from Russia at prices well below European averages until 2009. In exchange, it will surrender a small but crucial section of gas pipeline to Russia.

Armenia will pay $11.0 for each 1,000 cubic meters of gas, about half the European average but twice what the country pays now, the Russian monopoly Gazprom said in a statement on Thursday.

Gazprom in turn will buy a 24-mile section of pipe connecting Armenia to Iran, which other than Russia is the only plausible source of energy supplies in the region. Also under the deal Gazprom, through a joint venture, was granted a concession to build a larger second pipeline along that route.

In financial terms, the deal is considered small by the usual standards of the huge Gazprom, but it could have strategic importance as the company seeks to maintain its dominance in Eurasian natural gas trading. The agreement involves the pipeline route from Iran through Armenia that Gazprom now controls with its 24-mile section was sometimes discussed by energy analysts as a possible export conduit for Iranian gas to Europe.

Bird Flu Found in a Dead Swan in Scotland

Russia’s Gazprom and Armenia Reach Gas Deal

Japanese Tsunami* Party

April 7, 2006

* The Art of Cherry Blossom Observation.

Sushi will be served. Bring your ID for more drinks.

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Less than a year ago, Vice President Cheney remarked that the Iraqi insurgency was in its "last throes." In the intervening months, the conflict has transformed from mere random violence to an all-out, full-blown civil war. What happens when Iraq passes the tipping point? Where side will we take in the impending conflict? "Peace and run," having a better chance than we know the joys and thrills of a wonderful experience into something that breeds fear and anxiety.

Joel Fernandez

Sex outside its context once again turns something that should be a wonderful experience into something that breeds fear and anxiety.

Joel Fernandez

These days, it seems sex is a regular part of life for many college students. It doesn’t take a survey of the entire student body to know that the majority of the students are going. As college students, we are expected to seriously engage in romantic and intimate experiences under the justification of a chaste lifestyle. Some of you may be tempted to think this a sermon of sorts or a condemnation of judgment of people who choose to live a promiscuous lifestyle. “What does this little phrase ‘sex’ or ‘hooking up’ mean to you?” My thought might interest you to know that if I were condemning you, then I would also be condemning rejections, breakups, and loss. I just have in mind what I have learned and decided to share with others. One must ask, is there a better way? Is there another way that I might have the joys and thills of romance, without the risk of the potentially serious consequences that inevitably accompany sexual unions? That better way is chastity. "Chastity? What?" you might ask. That’s probably the reaction of a lot of us to hearing the word, but the truth is, most college students are finding the benefits of such a lifestyle. Let’s first clarify that it is NOT merely abstinence. Abstinence can be found on the World Wide Web. For more information, please visit http://www.chastechoice.org.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Opinion Board, which consists of the magazine’s chief editor, managing editor, opinion editor, and an editorial staff.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT local community. Letters to the editor in italics contain in italics.

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As Spring Arrives, So Does ‘Ice Age: The Meltdown’
Hilarious Animated Comedy Boosts Famous Voices, Family-Friendly Story

By Hendrata Dharmawan

FILM REVIEW ★★★

Ice Age: The Meltdown
Directed by Carlos Saldanha
Written by Peter Gaulke, Gary Tieff, Simon Wells
Starring Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Queen Latifah, Jay Leno
Rating: B
Now Playing

Ice Age: The Meltdown is a feature-length animated sequel to “Ice Age” (2002), with many exciting characters that the woolly mammoth, Sid the sloth, Diego the saber-toothed tiger, and the baleful acorn-hoarding squirrel Scrat. There are also some new central characters, such as a female mammoth named Ellie (Queen Latifah) and her two “brothers,” possums Crash and Eddie.

The movie begins where the first film left off; the animals have found a warmer paradise and discovered that the ice age is coming to an end. While everyone else is enjoying the warmer climate, Manny, Sid, and Diego discover that the rising temperature creates one problem: a warmer paradise. This humorous side story about Scrat trying to get hold of that elusive acorn. Thisносумная side story, however, turns out to be central to the plot.

Unlike recent animated whodunits that dribble in pop culture, this film doesn’t require views of contemporary television shows. Rather, it mainly comes from animal silliness, especially expressed by Sid and Scrat. There is also a little romance element (Lucas and Sid), a little violence (long-distance martial arts), and a little action (flying and falling objects, water and tidal waves, etc.) are unconvincing. Fur and wind, however, were very well done, and reminded me of Sully’s beautiful coat in “Monsters Inc.”

The facsimiles of the animals, tediously key-framed by hand, convey emotions effectively. While “Meltdown” lacks quality in many areas, it accomplishes one goal with ease: entertainment. Despite the second-class graphics and predictable plot, the movie is filled with creative humor. It’s a family film that avoids the burden of complicated plot elements. It is almost over before spring break was half over!

‘Lucky Number Slevin’ Stacks the Odds
All-Star Cast Makes Dark Comedy an Entertaining Hit

By Yongyi Zhu

FILM REVIEW ★★★½

Lucky Number Slevin
Directed by Paul McGuigan
Written by James Smilovic
Starring Josh Hartnett, Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Ben Kingsley, Lucy Liu, Stanley Tucci
Rating: B+
Open Today

A boss, a rabbi, a man in a purple-flowered towel, a cop, a neighbor, an assassin... and a missing friend. Sounds like a recipe for total disaster. Yet somehow, this group of misfits comes together in one of the most brilliant films of the year. Director Paul McGuigan pieces together the stories of all those characters to make a dark comedy about a man who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time — all the time.

Josh Hartnett is Slevin, a young man who just got fired, kicked out of his apartment after finding his girlfriend in bed with another man, and mugged while trying to get to his friend Nick (Sam Jaeger’s) apartment. Nick isn’t even there when he arrives, but that doesn’t stop Slevin, after everything else he’s dealt with that day. Slevin’s misfortune only increases when two groups of thugs, the Boss (Morgan Freeman) and the Rabbi (Sir Ben Kingsley), think he’s the Boss. Freeman and Kingsley are fighting over the Boss, who they’ve mistaken for Nick, who’s accumulated major gambling debts.

In his quest for the Boss, who tells him that instead of paying the money Nick owes, Slevin needs to arrange the death of Boss’s son by killing the Rabbi’s. However, Slevin then goes to the Rabbi and finds out that he does not provide the gambling money, he will be terminated. Slevin has two days to do everything he’s been asked, or he will be shot down. This stardusted cast truly brings the movie to life. Hartnett may be a one-dimensional actor, always exhibiting a kind and somewhat idiotic predisposition in his movies, but this act is perfect for this movie. He plays the part of the confused and helpless Slevin without a hitch. Bruce Willis is also a magnificent part of the cast. His performance combines a little bit of “Die Hard” with a lot of “The Whole Nine Yards” to create someone cool, calm, and capable of killing at any time. Freeman and Kingsley are fitting as the crime bosses, although they’ve never given all the pieces to the plot, and in some confusing and helpless Slevin without a hitch. Bruce Willis is also a magnificent part of the cast. His performance combines a little bit of “Die Hard” with a lot of “The Whole Nine Yards” to create someone cool, calm, and capable of killing at any time. Freeman and Kingsley are fitting as the crime bosses, although they’ve never given all the pieces to the plot, and in some

Scrat struggles to save his prized acorn from frozen captivity in “Ice Age: The Meltdown.”

Perky neighbor Lindsey (Lucy Liu) consoles the unfortunate Slevin (Josh Hartnett) in “Lucky Number Slevin.”

A group of high school students could have learned enough acting skills over the course of a weekend to be in this film.

shows how DiNorscio unravels himself from the mess.

The problem is that the movie tries to be both a drama and a comedy, and ends up failing at both. The writers attempt to be funny by having Diesel tell jokes and introducing unbelievable characters, such as a midget lawyer and an equally short-statured sick man. Try as they may, the writers manage to fail in every respect with trying to make this film funny.

The drama aspect, even though “Find Me Guilty” is based on a true story, the unrealistic characters and choppy plot make it hard for the audience to believe. It’s almost as if we’re staring into one of those Magic Eye 3-D pictures when we look at the sets, if we could look closely enough, there might be something there. Somehow, despite this, the film comes out just right.

Vin Diesel’s Awful Attempt to be Both Funny and Serious

By Yongyi Zhu

FILM REVIEW ★½

Find Me Guilty
Directed by Scott C. Lamet
Written by Sidney Lumet and T. J. Mancini
Starring Vin Diesel
Rating: B
Now Playing

I nterested in seeing a grown man waltz into court and throw a temper tantrum? Want to see an immoral character, plotting to grow up through his “serious” performance? Planning on throwing ten dolls down the drain? Well then — “Find Me Guilty” should be the perfect piece of trash for you. This film tries to force Vin Diesel into a role that does not suit him at all, while telling a story that is only mildly interesting.

Based on the true story of an organized crime family’s trial, with two men who’ve never met each other, Nico DiNorscio (Vin Diesel) and his family DiNorscio ignores the offer and proceeds with the trial. However, the mob family doesn’t even like him, and so the movie can’t without the erratic behavior in court. Admittedly, DiNorscio gets himself into quite a sticky situation, and Lumet’s film first depicts this story, and then

...Vin Diesel’s Awful Attempt to be Both Funny and Serious (Vin Diesel’s Awful Attempt to be Both Funny and Serious)
The Princess Inquiries
Princess Peach Shows Her Emotional Side in Fun Platformer
By William Andrews

Super Princess Peach
Nintendo DS

Controls: 7
Music/Sound: 6
Overall: 7 (all scores out of 10)

Nintendo DS
Super Princess Peach
STAFF WRITER
By William Andrews

Princess Peach Shows Her Emotional Side in Fun Platformer

The Princess Inquiries

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

The Princess Inquiries

ON THE SCREEN

BY THE TECH ARTS

April 7, 2006

I t finally happened. Princess Peach Toadstool is the star of her own adventure, a side-scrolling action game for the Nintendo DS system, in the best tradition of the Macross Box. This time around, Bowser kidnaps the famed plumbers (because it’s not the Mushroom Kingdom unless someone gets kidnapped), and it’s up to our intrepid heroine, her emotions, and a mysterious fighting parasol to get them back and set things right.

Whatever you don’t play a Mario game for the story — you play it for the fun. However you feel about Mr. Miyamoto and Nintendo in general, they sure can make an entertaining video game, and Super Princess Peach (SPP) doesn’t disappoint. It was no problem doing my reviewer’s duty and playing the game through to the credits, in fact, it was hard to put down the controller for the most part. This also means it was pretty easy. Though I don’t need much challenge to enjoy a game, for those who do, seek out another one.

Enough generalizations — let’s get specific! I’d bet SPP would be partially modeled after Yoshi’s Island, that beautiful SNES classic, with Soso’s transports baby Mario to his parent’s house, although the stork was ambushed by Bowser’s henchmen (seriously). Even though the two are very similar in overall style and controls, it’s sad to realize that Yoshi’s Island, from 11 years ago, outshines SPP in both graphics and sound. The latter’s graphics were nicely done, but they just weren’t a gas-eye-catching and striking as I’d hoped.

The graphics were also something of a letdown, functioning more as fitter than as an attraction. The controls were kind of weird. Giunti, there’s going to be funky stuff since DS has a touch screen, but it served way more like a gimmick than anything else. Since the game takes place on Vibe Island, where Bowser has a sum- menu home (again, serious), Peach’s emo-

tions are magnified. This means that, assuming you have enough emotional energy in your bar, you can make Peach feel Joy, Rage, Sorrow, or Calm. Each state has its own special abilities (Joy makes Peach fly, Rage makes her stamp and catch things on fire, Calm bashes Peach, Sorr

row makes her cry, and in order to navigate through the various stages of the game and find the elusive Toads you must use these skills/emotions to the max). To choose an emotion you tap the appropriate corner on the touch screen, no easy task. Though I tried to find a comfortable way to use all the necessary buttons while holding the stylus in one hand, I eventually just gave up and used my thumbs to activate SPP’s powers.

A bunch of features make it perhaps worthwhile to go through SPP a second time, for example, never tames and lots of min-games (which were, of course, fun). The thing is, SPP’s score once was quite enough for me; I felt no desire to go through the same stages, find the same secret hiding spots (albeit for new secrets), it was fun, but not that fun. Maybe if I'd bought it, it’d be ready in a few months to go all again and enjoy myself while I was at it, not right now.

There has, of course, been a bit of controversy surrounding this game. I mean, Peach Toadstool finally gets her own game (SMB2 and SSBM don’t count), and what’s her shtick? She uses her emotions to get her way. Now, I’m not here to argue whether it’s sexist or just an accurate repre-

sentation of character or whatever, that’s another department. I’m here to tell you it’s a fun game with some flaws that you’ll most likely enjoy playing. Seriously.

Syriana

Don’t Come Knocking

She’s the Man

V for Vendetta

undaughtered destruction

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Trio

Character Profiles: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor

Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta

A Saferide Experience

by Otoniel Tabares and Shahbano Imran
The International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella held the New England Semifinal competition on Saturday, March 25 in Kresge Auditorium. The event was hosted by MIT Resonance, and eight different a cappella groups from the New England area competed for a spot at the ICCA Finals, to be held April 29 at the Lincoln Center in New York City. The Chorallaries of MIT won the New England semifinal and ended the night with an encore performance of the “Engineers Drinking Song.”

Photography by Ricardo Ramirez.

Above: Soloist Prathima Nandivada ’06 (center) and accompanists YeeKwan Lo ’08 (left) and Arushi Dugar ’08 (right) from the Chorallaries perform “If I Ain’t Got You” by Alicia Keys.

Right: Joshua M. Karges ’08 of MIT’s Resonance performs “Mr. Brightside,” originally by The Killers, as part of the closing performances.

Below: Christopher M. Yang ’08 plays the part of Frank Sinatra, wearing a black fedora during his performance of “New York, New York.”
Caltech Suspected MIT of Hack

on March 28, and because the MIT hackers did not leave a note, there was some concern among Caltech students that the disappearance was not a simple prank. As a result, Fleming House, the owner of the cannon, filed a grand theft report, said Thomas N. Mannion, Caltech's assistant vice president for campus life.

Caltech's pranking ethics state that pranks should be accompanied by a note, which often identifies the people responsible for the prank. Todd Gingrich, president of the associated students of the California Institute of Technology, said that he thinks it is fair to require MIT hackers to conform to Caltech's pranking ethics, which he said are more stringent than MIT's hacking ethics. He criticized the MIT hackers for not leaving a note, but also called the hack "reasonably impressive."

Howe said that they would have liked to have left a note, but that given the circumstances on the night of the hack, "we were a little spooked out about returning to the scene." Even without a note identifying the pranksters, many Caltech students and administrators originally suspected MIT or Harvey Mudd College of taking the cannon. This is partially because Interhouse Committee's Resolutions at Caltech state that the Fleming cannon cannot be pranked, Jean Sun, ASCIT vice president, wrote in an e-mail.

Pranking the Fleming cannon, Gingrich said, is "something we wish we could do to Fleming but we're not allowed to." He said that some Fleming residents are upset, though the vast majority of Caltech students think the prank was "well done" and "amusing."

Howe said that the hackers were not aware that the Fleming cannon is considered off-limits for pranks.

Mannion said that the cannon is primarily the concern of Fleming House, and that its alumni, including some of Caltech's trustees, are "very involved at this point" and are interested in responding to the prank.

"Fleming expects to get the cannon back," Gingrich said. The hack "suggests the prospect of a back and forth thing in the future," which is something many Caltech students are excited about, he said.

Harvey Mudd first stole the Fleming cannon from Caltech in 1986. Howe said that Caltech expected Harvey Mudd to steal the cannon this year, and that the hack was the hackers' response to Caltech's pranking CPW last year. Sun wrote in an e-mail that Caltech has been waiting for MIT to respond to its first pranks, and that "every time something happens on campus, we think it's you guys pranking us."

Caltech President and former MIT Institute Professor David Baltimore '61 called the hack an "imaginative response" in an e-mail. Asked in an e-mail what he thought about the growing rivalry between Caltech and MIT, Baltimore responded only with a smiley face: " :)."

Mannion said that the general consensus on the hack among administrators was that "it's good it was MIT because their engineers are almost as good as ours."

As far as the MIT hackers have in store for the cannon's future, Howe said that any action by Howe & Ser would depend on the attitudes of the MIT and Caltech administration. "Let's just wait and see how things unfold around here," said Howe.

The Caltech Fleming Cannon appeared Thursday morning outside the Green building, adorned with an enormous Class of 2006 Brass Rat on the barrel.
What is Athena?

Athena is the networked UNIX computing environment developed by MIT. Athena presents a mostly uniform interface to users, independent of whether they are using Linux Athena or Solaris Athena machines.

Athena uses the Kerberos authentication system (designated at MIT), a secure system that saves users the trouble of having to retype their password to access the various Athena services such as email and mailing list administration.

A vast number of programs are available on Athena machines through AFS, the distributed filesystem MIT uses. The advantage of software in AFS is that it allows users and courses to easily make software available to all machines on campus. One of SIPB’s roles at MIT is to provide hundreds of useful pieces of software in AFS.

MIT gives students a remarkable amount of freedom in the computing environment. Students can create (and modify) @mit.edu mailing lists and AFS filesystem groups through automated command line or web interfaces (many other schools at best let students control mailing lists of the forms @lists.something.edu). Thus, one can easily and quickly create professional-sounding infrastructure for group projects or unofficial student groups. Students are also free to choose an arbitrary available username when they arrive.

If I decide to attend MIT, how do I activate my Athena account before the first day of classes?

Students are also free to choose an arbitrary available username (email address and login name) after you set up your Athena account, providing you access to all of MIT’s computing services. Keep in mind that you will NOT be able to change your username (email address or login name) forever, so be sure to set up your account, so choose wisely (remember that you will be emailing potential employers from this email account).

What are the quotas for network file space and mail?

MIT’s network file system, AFS, currently provides each user with at least 1 GB of space, accessible from any Athena machine (including the Athena dialups via ssh). The mail quota, a completely separate quota, is currently 500 MB.

Can I run a server at MIT?

Unlike most other colleges, MIT has an open network (not behind a firewall), allowing students to run servers in their rooms. Each student is allowed to have up to four static IP addresses and up to three host names per IP address. Traffic on peer-to-peer file-sharing services is allowed, though rate-limited to a fraction of available bandwidth. You should, of course, limit your use of file-sharing protocols to legally transferable files (see the Tech column “Run Over By the RIAA,” or infer the details from the title).

To ask a question, send email to sip-bee@mit.edu. We’ll try to answer quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-557 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our Web site: http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/.
April 7, 2006

THE TECH

Page 13

Students Nominated Profs, EECS Admin For Big Screw Prize

Screw, from Page 1

of voting yesterday. Graves wrote in an e-mail that he has “absolutely no idea” why he was nominated. “I’m a mild-mannered nice guy. Possibly I bored someone to death in class, and this is their retaliation,” he wrote.

Graves praised the contest for providing “an opportunity for the students to show their love and/or blow off some steam.”

Professor Haynes R. Miller wrote in an e-mail that he was unsure of why he was nominated. “Someone suggested to me that it might have to do with the fact that I am lecturing in 18.03 this Spring, but, since that course is perfect in every way, it can’t be that,” he wrote.

Miller said that he hopes to win the contest because his office has a good space for displaying the screw.

Graves echoed the sentiment, writing that “I covet the big screw and have the perfect place to display it in my office.”

Tarasov said that APO is still accepting nominations and trying to get approval to enter the nominees in the contest. He said that APO sends each nominee a “very diplomatic letter” explaining the fundraiser, though some faculty members choose to decline the nomination.

Other nominees include Course VI Administrator Anne M. Hunter, who could not be reached for comment.

Tarasov said that Hunter was nominated because she “represents Course VI” and that students voting for her will likely do so because they feel they have been screwed over by the department, not necessarily by Hunter. However, he said that there is probably a “small percentage of students who are angry because she fills their inbox with lots of mail.”

Voting in the contest will continue weekdays through Tuesday, April 11 on the first floor of the Student Center.

Students Nominated Profs, EECS Admin For Big Screw Prize

Big Screw Nominees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Designated Charity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly L. Berkowski</td>
<td>5.12 professor Hospice of Cambridge</td>
<td>$11.18</td>
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<td>Anne M. Hunter</td>
<td>Course VI Center for New Words</td>
<td>$30.82</td>
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<td>Haynes R. Miller</td>
<td>18.03 professor Union of Palestinian Relief Committee</td>
<td>$56.64</td>
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<td>John G. Brisson II</td>
<td>2.005, 2.006 J.G. Brisson Sr. Scholarship Fund</td>
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SOURCE: VLADIMIR S. TARASOV ’08, ALPHA PHI OMEGA
Prefrosh Enjoy CPW, Meeting Classmates

GSC Slots are Empty

Secretary, Treasurer

MIT, and said CPW is "part of my decision process." The high schooler from Washington State, who had not visited MIT before, said he expected it to be more needy. He said he liked the crazy research and fame of MIT. John Parrott said the parent's meeting was well-done.

Maria Peas, Lisa Schlecht, and Diana Audde, who met each other at CPW, were checking out the CPW festival together. Audde, who is from Brazil, said simply of MIT: "it's great." Diana called MIT "cool, nerdy, and full of wonderful people." Schlecht, from Lexington, MA marveled at the diversity. All three said they were enjoying CPW so far and are very likely to attend.

Ben Jones, who manned the registration desk for eleven hours continuously, said, "I loved every minute of that" and this is the "best weekend of the year for admissions."" GSC President Sylvain Bruni said that "close to 35" representatives at CPW were checked out the CPW festival together. Audde, who is from Brazil, said simply of MIT: "it's great." Diana called MIT "cool, nerdy, and full of wonderful people." Schlecht, from Lexington, MA marveled at the diversity. All three said they were enjoying CPW so far and are very likely to attend.

Secretory, Treasurer

GSC Elections, from Page 1

We proudly accept *TechCash*

Depression is a serious threat to anyone that has a brain.

Minutes of the March 28, 2006 GSC Meeting

Marylee Jones

Bonnie Wu

Sylvain Bruni

Sylvain Bruni

GSC recently sent an email out to all representatives, and the vast majority of replies expressed approval of the compromise reached. Wu could not reach representatives, and the vast majority of replies expressed approval of the compromise reached.

"You would have expected if people thought that I was unqualified they would have gone out and found someone else to nominate, which has happened in the past."
Complete a Student Activities Office survey and enter for a chance to win your student group some money!

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2:00pm
(Performance followed by Q&A session)
Zero Arrow Theater, Harvard Square

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puremovement

Friday May 5, 2006
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Cutler Majestic Theater, Boston

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“a feeding frenzy for the brain!”
A senior Congressional investigator has accused his agency of covering up a scientific fraud among hundreds of billions of dollars worth of research from a science project aimed to help the military, a report said, which is expected to cost more than $230 billion over the next two decades. The weapon, the G.A.O. says, was launched by Boeing. In 1996, Dr. Schwartz filed a federal lawsuit under the False Claims Act, a law that allows contracts that fraudulently claim payment, and an MIT professor, Theodore A. Postol '67, among others, has been working on investigating the weapon. Postol, Boeing, in turn, was competing against others to build the overall kill vehicle. Boeing has denied any wrongdoing.

After the report was made public, Mr. Ghoshroy in private called for an independent investigation of its integrity. The G.A.O. conducted three internal inquiries, each absolving itself of any impropriety.

An interview and written responses from Ghoshroy were submitted to the House National Security Committee in Washington before joining the accountability office in 1998 as a senior defense analyst.

Almost immediately, Mr. Ghoshroy recalculated the G.A.O. team's finding of a coverup — for instance, disturbing charts buried at the back of an upbeat report.

In 2005, the military calls the discrepancy the authority to remove a character from a program's overall credibility.

In my opinion, it posed a serious conflict of interest for the POET. I pointed out that the POET team, which was led by Mr. Ghoshroy, had been working on developing the program's overall credibility.

For his part, Mr. Ghoshroy said he found it "mind-boggling that the G.A.O. refused to admit that its report misinformed Congress and the public. I'm concerned," he said. "That's no one out there to oversee the oversights."

Mr. Ghoshroy also said at the military contractor TRW, Nira Schwartz, and by an MIT professor, Theodore A. Postol '67. From 2000 to 2002, Subrata Ghoshroy served as technical advisor to two Government Accountability Office reports into allegations of fraud in the military's missile defense system — allegations levied by a former engineer at the military contractor TRW, Nira Schwartz, and by an MIT professor, Theodore A. Postol '67. Last week, Ghoshroy, who now works with Pistox as a research associate, publicly released the reports, saying GAO managers forced them to favor the military and its contractors in the face of compelling evidence of fraud.

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solution to crossword
Outdoor Track & Field Season Kicks Off With Two Meets in Florida

By Alisha Shor

The Men’s and Women’s Track and Field teams spent spring break in central Florida, participating in the Spring Fling meet and Diet Pepsi Invitational in preparation for the upcoming outdoor season. The men placed first and the women second in the Spring Fling event, while the Diet Pepsi Invitational was not scored.

The Spring Fling meet, a mid-week competition at the National Training Center in Clermont, FL, produced a number of outstanding performances. Despite the distant location, the Spring Fling meet featured mostly local Division 3 schools. The men soundly defeated Colby 209-120, taking victories in all running events except the 400 hurdles, which SUNY New Paltz captured mostly local Division 3 rivals.

By Jennifer Miller-McEachern

The MIT Men’s Volleyball team advanced to the semifinals of the NECVA Championship Tournament last weekend, beating higher seeded Medalle and SUNY New Paltz before falling to Eastern Mennonite.

The MIT Men’s Volleyball team placed second and the Women’s team placed second at the Spring Fling meet, while the Diet Pepsi Invitational was not scored.

After earning a post season bid in 2005, the team lost in the first round. This time around they had hopes of not only making it to the post season, but also getting further in the tournament. Going in as the 13th seed to face #4 seed and #10 nationally ranked Medaille College in the first round on Friday.

The first game saw MIT take control early and build a 29-22 lead before letting the game slip through their fingers 35-37. The Engineers regrouped and maintained their poise and confidence, winning the next three games 30-27, 30-24, 30-27 for the upset.

With 25 kills, Praveen Pandimukkala ‘08 set a single-season Institute record in kills (500) as he eclipsed the previous mark of 488, which was established last year by Robert M. McAndrew ’05.

T. Scott Pollom ’09 dominated the front row with 15 kills and nine total blocks while Michangelo A. Raimondi ’06 contributed 12 kills, four assisted blocks, and MIT’s lone ace.

Ryan G. Dean ’08 had a strong defensive outing as he collected a team-high 16 digs and three assisted blocks.

Jordan X. Wan ’06 posted a double-double with 52 assists and 12 digs.

This win was the first for the Engineers in the NECVA Tournament and only the second post-season win ever for the program. Tech’s other post-season victory was a 3-0 sweep over Eastern Mennonite University in the 1993 EIVA Division III Playoffs.

In Saturday’s quarterfinals, MIT played 13 seed and #13 nationally ranked SUNY New Paltz, who had beaten the injury depleted Engineers earlier in the season 3-2. This time, with a healthy squad, the Engineers swept New Paltz 3-0 (30-26, 30-24, 30-18) to book their place in the tour-

Women’s Gymnastics at NCGA, Best Finish Ever at National Tourney

By Paul Dill

The MIT Women’s Gymnastics Team placed third and the Men’s team placed second at the Spring Fling meet, while the Diet Pepsi Invitational was not scored.

The Women’s team placed second at the Spring Fling meet.

The MIT Women’s Track and Field team placed second at the Spring Fling meet.

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Women’s Gymnastics at NCGA, Best Finish Ever at National Tourney

By Jennifer Miller-McEachern

At the beginning of Spring Break, as others relaxed, the MIT Women’s Gymnastics Team placed fifth at their first National Championship competition since 1997, in their best finish ever.

The team started the competition with the floor event. Laura E. Kelly ’09 did a nice tuck tsuk (8.875) and Sauchuk did a great pike tsuk (8.625). Sophia Harrison swung an amazing routine, and was rewarded with the best routine of her career (9.125), and Sauchuk followed with the best routine of her career (9.450). Trowbridge did a great pike tsuk (9.125), and Alison M. Barnard was first on the bars (9.025), what she had done all year (9.025).

The team kept its confidence and performed well. Always steady, Hershcovitch hit for an 8.65. On the beam for their final routine, the team kept its confidence and performed well. Always steady, Hershcovitch hit for an 8.65. Trowbridge went big with a 9.400 and performed one of her best floor routines this season for a remarkable 9.675. MIT placed third out of eight teams, and despite one fall, set a new team season high with a score of 47.075.

Moving on to vault, Laura E. Kelly ‘09 did a nice tuck tsuk (8.875) and Sauchuk a solid front handspring forward consistent with what she had done all year (9.025). Trowbridge did a great pike tsuk (9.125), and Alison M. Barnard ‘06 then threw her best front handspring in competition, but only scored an 8.85 because of a landing error. Zimmerman was solid with a score of 9.475 and Sophia L. Harrison ’08 performed her usual Yurchenko layout for a 9.350, making the team’s vault total 45.875.

Barnard was first on the bars (8.275), and Sauchuk followed with the best routine of her career (8.625). Sophia Harrison swung an amazing routine, and was rewarded with a 9.65.

On the team for their final rotation, the team kept its confidence and performed well. Always steady, Hershcovitch hit for an 8.65. Trowbridge went big with a 9.400 and Sophia L. Harrison ’08 scored a high 9.750 and maintained their poise and confidence, winning the next three games 30-27, 30-24, 30-27 for the upset.

With 25 kills, Praveen Pandimukkala ‘08 set a single-season Institute record in kills (500) as he eclipsed the previous mark of 488, which was established last year by Robert M. McAndrew ’05.

T. Scott Pollom ’09 dominated the front row with 15 kills and nine total blocks while Michangelo A. Raimondi ’06 contributed 12 kills, four assisted blocks, and MIT’s lone ace.

Ryan G. Dean ’08 had a strong defensive outing as he collected a team-high 16 digs and three assisted blocks.

Jordan X. Wan ’06 posted a double-double with 52 assists and 12 digs.

This win was the first for the Engineers in the NECVA Tournament and only the second post-season win ever for the program. Tech’s other post-season victory was a 3-0 sweep over Eastern Mennonite University in the 1993 EIVA Division III Playoffs.

In Saturday’s quarterfinals, MIT played 13 seed and #13 nationally ranked SUNY New Paltz, who had beaten the injury depleted Engineers earlier in the season 3-2. This time, with a healthy squad, the Engineers swept New Paltz 3-0 (30-26, 30-24, 30-18) to book their place in the tour-

Women’s Gymnastics at NCGA, Best Finish Ever at National Tourney

By Jennifer Miller-McEachern

At the beginning of Spring Break, as others relaxed, the MIT Women’s Gymnastics Team placed fifth at their first National Championship competition since 1997, in their best finish ever.

The team started the competition with the floor event. Laura E. Kelly ’09 did a nice tuck tsuk (8.875) and Sauchuk did a great pike tsuk (8.625). Sophia Harrison swung an amazing routine, and was rewarded with the best routine of her career (9.125), and Sauchuk followed with the best routine of her career (9.450). Trowbridge did a great pike tsuk (9.125), and Alison M. Barnard ‘06 then threw her best front handspring in competition, but only scored an 8.85 because of a landing error. Zimmerman was solid with a score of 9.475 and Sophia L. Harrison ’08 performed her usual Yurchenko layout for a 9.350, making the team’s vault total 45.875.

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