Student Group Reserve Account Policy to Remove/Limit Interest

By Jenny Zhang

Under a new policy for accruing interest, student groups will no longer collect interest on deposits to reserve accounts. These accounts currently earn four percent interest compounded monthly, but the new policy will be implemented for the next fiscal year, beginning in July 2006, said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

The reserve accounts formerly received interest as part of MIT’s Pool C (interest-bearing) account, but with tough financial times for the Institute about three years ago, Pool C stopped collecting interest, and still does, Benedict said. At that time, Benedict began to pay the four percent interest from his discretionary fund, but this proved too costly as students began to analyze their reserve account balances to snowball. “It was never the intention of the policy to encourage groups to build up reserves,” Benedict said.

The new policy, which will be finalized in the next few weeks, would essentially revert interest-collecting reserve account balances to what they were when Benedict began paying the interest. Therefore, groups that have built up balances in the past several years will only receive interest on the balance they had in 2003. Benedict said with the new policy, “a handful” of groups would lose all reserve account interest, and about half a dozen groups would be affected by being forced to revert to the lower level. Under the new system, interest will amount to $1,400 to $12,000 a year, rather than the approximately $17,500 Benedict paid last year.

Maintenance of reserve accounts, according to the Student Life Programs Web site, requires limits transactions to four per fiscal year, excluding deposits or gifts. Association of Student Activities treasurer Marcus Dahlem said that the ASA would meet to discuss the new policy, but the ASA does not have an official opinion on the matter at this point.

Benedict said he is creating this policy because “by spending large quantities of the interest, he is less able to provide funds for other student groups that need the more.” The reserve interest, he said, was designed for students to spend rather than maintain.

After Months, Still No Discipline

Dean Named to Replace Fischer

By Kiratana Raja

Nearly one year after William M. Fisher stepped down as associate dean for student conduct and risk management, MIT administrators are still seeking a replacement who will take over some of Fisher’s responsibilities in the newly-created position of associate dean of the office of student mediation and community programs.

Senior Associate Dean for Student Life Stephen D. Immerman, who is chairing the search committee, said that the committee hopes to present a candidate to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict by the end of this school year.

The selection process began last fall with the redefinition of the role, a task undertaken by Benedict’s office and the Committee on Discourse. Benedict said that the major change is that the responsibility for risk management has been removed from the job definition for the new position. “Those responsibilities have been given to another staff member,” he said.

According to the job description for the new position, the responsibilities include managing the activities of all members of the Community Standards Board, which are currently performed by the student Life Programs Web site, requires limits transactions to four per fiscal year, excluding deposits or gifts. Association of Student Activities treasurer Marcus Dahlem said that the ASA would meet to discuss the new policy, but the ASA does not have an official opinion on the matter at this point.

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Construction to convert the space formerly occupied by the Cashier’s Office into a student lounge along the Infinite Corridor began this week. Although some students oppose the removal of the dollar bill mural that is the facade of the office, construction plans involve its extraction and conversion into a window wall.

Director of Campus Activities Complex Phillip J. Walsh said that a band of etchings will be created in the glass at eye level to address the concerns of some students who did not want another “fish bowl” area visible to anyone walking by, while still allowing light from Killian court to stream into the Infinite Corridor. Etching will include a memorial for the dollar bill, accompanied with a narrative from its creator about the history of its creation, as well as a description of the Class of 2005 gift, which will be used to buy furniture for the lounge. Walsh said the author of the mural is happy with the plans.

Walsh said he anticipates the project will be completed before Commencement this June.
Australia’s Prime Minister Denies Knowing of Iraq Kickbacks

By Raymond Bonner

The New York Times

In a brief appearance before a commission investigating accusations that Australian weapons company Hawker Industries paid millions of dollars to the government of Saddam Hussein, Prime Minister John Howard said he never saw any of the checks over a six-year period that raised suspicions about the payments.

“I believe I did not read or receive any of the relevant checks at any time during that relevant period,” Howard said Thursday. The focus of the investigation is on an AWB Ltd., which Howard noted was one of the companies that represented Australian growers since the 1930s. The company is accused of paying more than $200 million to Saddam’s government under the United Nations’ oil-for-food program, in a scheme said to have involved aid to Iraq in return for the proceeds to buy food despite penalties imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

It was the first time in two decades that an Australian prime minister had been Summoned before a judicial inquiry, but it was relatively easy going for Howard. The commission’s counsel questioned him for only 45 minutes, and the chairman of the commission, Terence Cole, did not allow cross-examination by a lawyer representing AWB executives.

U.S. Seeks to End What It Considers Tax Scheme

By David Cay Johnston

The New York Times

The Justice Department is seeking a court order to block a Michigan couple from promoting what the government says is the No. 1 tax scheme in the country and to force them to return more than $20,000 in tax refunds.

The government also said seven people it said used the couple’s advice to avoid paying taxes have already received refunds totaling $250,000.

The main action was against Peter Eric Hendrickson, 50, of Commerce Township, Mich., and his wife, Doreen, 51, who maintain that only advice, in a move to recover the refunds they obtained.

Hendrickson claims that his clients have pocketed more than $98,000 in refunds with no adverse reaction from the government.

According to the Justice Department complaint, filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit, Hendrickson’s bogus zero-income scheme fraudulently asserts that the payment of taxes is voluntary and that his clients are legally entitled to refunds of all taxes withheld from their paychecks.

Treasury Note Yield Passes Five Percent Mark

By Vikas Bajaj

The New York Times

The 10-year Treasury note, which is closely tied to mortgages and is likely to play a role in curbing the housing market, has surged to levels that have not been seen since World War II.

The rise in the note’s yield on Thursday to more than 5 percent, its highest point in nearly four years, signaling that many borrowers will soon be paying more on mortgages and home equity loans.

Driven by a strong economy and a nearly two-year-long year tending to dampen the Federal Reserve, the rising level of interest rates makes it more expensive to have the biggest impact on people who took out home loans with low introductory interest rates, and that their current income would be like prohibiting people in the poultry industry said.

“Thank you we are going to test you”! Hendrickson said as she pushed open a door to expose a sad-looking, feces-covered pen where a dozen muddy broiler chickens, and one another chicken, were kept.

It has been two months since Hendrickson confirmed that what she had raised in the Arab world’s most populous country. Since then 12 humans have died. Hendrickson said she would test her chickens for the virus and then, after the government decided to vaccinate domestic poultry against the flu, it was learned there was not enough vaccine.

The government then turned to culling birds, relying on Egyptian security forces to carry out the culls. Security forces had not begun the culling campaign and this only contributed to spreading the disease.

As in many other developing countries, the Egyptian government was faced with not just with a medical and scientific battle, but also a serious propaganda and psychological war.

“Tell poor Egyptians in the countryside that they cannot raise poultry at home for food and extra income would be like prohibiting Russians from getting the flu at their dachas. It would cut off not only a crucial source of nutrition, but also a lifestyle that has deep cultural roots,” Qadeer Khan of Pakistan. Ahmadinejad said that crisis is on the way, but the government has no crisis in our country. They call us liars, they call us propaganda and psychological war.

But in Washington, Iran’s efforts to create the impression it was speed ahead ahead of its nuclear program, a feat accomplished by intelligent officials, who said the country’s boat had not altered Washington’s assessment of how close the country was to obtaining a weapon. But a briefing on Thursday, Thom- as Finger, the deputy director of national intelligence for analysis, said the official view of the intelligence agencies remained that Iran was unlikely to have nuclear weapons before 2010 at the earliest.

No Agreement Made to Halt Nuclear Aspirations of Iran

By Michael Blackman

The New York Times

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More Retired Generals Joining Call for Rumsfeld’s Resignation

By David S. Cloud
and Eric Schmitt
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

The widening circle of retired generals who have stepped forward to call for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s resignation is shaping up as an unusual outcry that could pose a significant challenge to Rumsfeld’s leadership, current and former generals said Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack Jr., who led troops on the ground in Iraq as recently as 2004 as the commander of the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division, on Thursday became the fifth retired senior general in recent days to call publicly for Rumsfeld’s ouster.

“We need to continue to fight the global war on terror and keep it off our shores,” Swannack said in a telephone interview. “But I do not believe Secretary Rumsfeld is the right person to fight that war based on his absolute failures in managing the war against Saddam in Iraq.”

There was no indication that Rumsfeld was considering resigning. Another former Army commander in Iraq, Maj. Gen. John Batiste, who led the 1st Infantry Division, publicly broke ranks with Rumsfeld on Wednesday. Rumsfeld long ago became a magnet for political attacks. But the current uproar is significant because the criticism is coming from generals who were involved in the invasion and occupation of Iraq under the defense secretary’s leadership.

There were indications on Thursday that the concern about Rumsfeld, rooted in years of pent-up anger about his handling of the war, was sweeping beyond the retired generals critical of Rumsfeld.

There was no indication that Rumsfeld is doing a very fine job during a challenging period in our nation’s history,” the White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters on Thursday.

Local Law Enforcement Officials Begin Crackdown on Immigrants

By Paul Vitelto
THE NEW YORK TIMES

While lawmakers in Washington debate whether to forgive illegal immigrants their trespasses, a small but increasing number of local and state law enforcement officials are taking it upon themselves to pursue deportation cases against people who are here illegally.

In more than a dozen jurisdictions, officials have invoked a little-used 1996 federal law to seek special federal training in immigration enforcement for their officers.

In other places, the local authorities are flagging some illegal immigrants who are caught up in the criminal justice system, sometimes for minor offenses, and taking it upon themselves to alert immigration officials to their illegal status so that they can be deported.

In Costa Maya, Calif., for example, in Orange County, the city council last year shut down a day laborer job that had operated for 17 years, and this year authorized its police department to begin training officers to pursue illegal immigrants — a job previously left to federal agents.

In Suffolk County, N.Y., on Long Island, where a similar police training proposal was met with angry protests in 2004, county officials have quietly put a system in place that uses sheriff’s deputies to flag illegal immigrants in the county jail population — a job previously left to federal agents.

In Patum County, N.Y., about 30 miles north of Manhattan, eight illegal immigrants — who were playing soccer in a school ball field when they were arrested on Jan. 9 for trespassing and held for the immigration authorities. “I took an oath to protect the people of this county, and that means enforcing the laws of the land,” said Donald B. Smith, the Putnam County sheriff. “We have a situation in our country where our borders are not being adequately protected, and that leaves law enforcement people like us in a very difficult situation.”

Under Chinese Law, Not All Lives Are Equal

By Jim Yardley
BERNARD HUANG
THE NEW YORK TIMES

He Qingzhi, 38, who has lived in this small town in central China for 15 years, was told that his neighbors were entitled to roughly three times more compensation from the accident because they are registered urban residents while he is only a migrant worker.

“I was shocked,” said He, as he sorted through legal papers in his apartment recently while his wife sobbed in the next room. “The girls are about the same age. They all went to the same school. Why is our life so cheap?”

Outraged, He and his lawyer are considering a lawsuit, saying the decision was discriminatory and that the family is entitled to full compensation under the Chinese Constitution. The problem with that argument is the Chinese Constitution. While more ordinary Chinese citizens like He are claiming legal rights and often citing the constitution, it is actually a flimsy tool for protecting individual rights.

Woman Dies After Going on Disney Space Ride

By John Holusha
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A 49-year-old woman who had become ill at Disney World after going on an amusement ride that simulates a space launching died Wednesday.

The woman, identified by the medical examiner’s office of Orange County, Fla., as Hiltrud Bleumel, a tourist from Schmitten, Germany, took the four-minute ride Tuesday, became dizzy and nauseated, and was hospitalized, Disney officials said. She soon became comatose.

Bleumel was the second person in less than a year to die after taking the ride, Mission: Space, on which passengers experience twice the force of gravity. Last June a 4-year-old boy collapsed while on the ride with his mother and sister. A subsequent investigation showed no evidence of a rare, undiagnosed heart ailment.

It is not known whether Bleumel had some underlying medical problem that might have been worsened by the ride. An autopsy is scheduled for Friday, the medical examiner’s office said.

A representative of the park said in a statement Thursday that Disney engineers, monitored by state regulators, “completed a thorough inspection of the attraction” overnight Wednesday “and found it to be operating properly.” It reopened Thursday.

Mission: Space, in the Epcot section of the park, is so challenging that airline-type motion sickness bags are made available to riders, some of whom complain of dizziness and nausea after it is over. A warning sign posted outside the attraction cautions some people, including heart patients and pregnant women, not to ride.
Opinion Policy

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

Dissents 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 written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged, but hard copy submissions should be addressed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. [3]

Because of a production error, the Bonus Crossword in the Tuesday, April 11 issue omitted a clue. 59 down should have had the clue “Low digit.”

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become the property of The Tech, and will not be returned.

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

To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://the-tech.mit.edu.
Krishna Gupta

"Let them eat cake!" The now-famous words attributed to Marie Antoinette on the eve of the French Revolution have resonated with the French public ever since. In a sense, as a symbol of how low the upper classes could fall.

In 1789, the issue at hand was the non-taxation of nobility under the rule of Louis XVI. The streets of France were once again buzzing with noise, but this time in the form of some months off. The First Employment Contract (CPE) proposed by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has brought up a youth across France as a symbol of central tyranny.

For days, protesters have been seen in a student-organized strike that captured the attention of the entire world. With the announcement of the CPE on Friday, Monday, the CPE will be remembered as yet another episode in the long clash of Parisian political tragedy.

What is truly unfortunate about this defeat of the French is that it is not a defeat in the right direction. The government has lost, but it remains unanswered itself and the public death of the CPE, determined so irrationally, only sharpened the conviction that the international standing of France continues to slip down a rather steep slope.

What exactly was the CPE? Essentially, it instituted a new work contract for workers under the age of twenty-six, allowing businesses to hire eligible workers for up to a two-year trial period. During this period, employers could terminate the workers' contracts without any explanation, however, if the worker remained employed after two years, the contract reverted to a standard full-time contract.

Government-induced acrimony is fine, but there are limits to protest and rebellion. The French public needs to look beyond the short term and think of the future.

Such an arrangement naturally creates more flexibility in the labor market. In today's world, particularly in Western Europe, flexible labor markets are absolutely crucial to economic success. For France, bogged down by a ten percent unemployment rate, the importance of a more accessible labor market cannot be overstated. Without the CPE, there exists a very distinct group of workers who have little opportunity to enter the work force and lose the chance of living a fulfilling life or contributing to their country. Either they are not qualified to be hired in the competitive market or they become liabilities to companies.

Under the CPE, however, the employers would place less of an emphasis on the past, because there would be much less of a risk associated with hiring. The CPE becomes less abrasive. This change in valuation criteria means a greater percentage of the population into the work force, and this, in turn, helps to reduce unemployment.

The students who have taken to the streets clearly view the situation differently. For the French protesters, the CPE threatened to take away their basic rights as citizens. It allowed the government, and ultimately employers, to control their futures without consulting them even once. It allowed the aristocratic M. "Let them drink champagne" de Villepin to suggest a possible heroic presidential bid. It allowed Chirac to end his own term with a measure that would create a lasting impression. It allowed France, with alarming alacrity, to fall prey to the free market ideology so pervasively being imposed across the world. In sum, the CPE allowed the workers to be used. Or so the students feel. After all, France does have the highest worker productivity in the world. Their workers deserve some respect from our own government, right?

What the students don’t realize is that the CPE benefits them. Perhaps it does infringe upon some of the freedoms that the French seem to take as given. But, more importantly, it also attempts to tackle one of the most pressing social problems that the French face. No, not arrogance, but rather unemployment. Government-induced acrimony is fine, but there are limits to protest and rebellion. The French public needs to look beyond the short term and think of the future.

The debate over the CPE uncovers more fundamental anxieties. The public protests reflect a shared fear about the future of the French. Individual and national existential angst has driven France in the past, but now it threatens to tear the French apart. Let’s not forget that it was only last year that the French rejected the European Union constitution. These protests are really directed at the deepening of globalization and the drive for efficiency that is part of the modern world. To be quite honest, I can sympathize. It is a rather unfortunate era when the people are forgotten in the name of efficiency, however, this does not imply that global capitalism and the rights of the people cannot grow together. By having more flexibility in the labor market, employers are more willing to hire. As unemployment decreases, the freedoms of the people will increase twofold: through their own employment with the accompanying benefits and through the increase in the negotiation power of labor.

M. de Villepin staked his political reputation and career on the CPE. Unfortunately, the French public could not understand his impassioned plea. It’s been only four years since he gained the respect of the world after his grandstand in favor of the UN denouncing action against Iraq. Now, all we must examine what has gone wrong in France.

President Bush’s original 2007 budget proposal cut funding for the Global Fund by $250 million. This news, in large part to arrive across the country. Congress passed a budget amendment instead increasing its funding by $300 million. If you pick up your phone and call your Massachusetts senators, Ted Kennedy (617-565-3170) and John Kerry (617-565-8139), and ask them to support the fight against TB. Thank our government for supporting the Global Fund, and ask it to commit 300 million additional dollars to combat TB. Educate your friends and family. These protests are really directed at the unemployment. In today's world, particularly in Western Europe, flexible labor markets are absolutely crucial to economic success.

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This Friday April 21st

MIT Technology and Entrepreneurship Forum

At the Stata Center

Featuring Keynote Speaker: RAY STATA of the Stata Center

Ray Stata was a cofounder of Analog Devices, Inc. (ADI) and served as CEO and Chairman. He was a founder and the first President of the Massachusetts High Technology Council (MHTC) and is currently a member of MHTC’s Board of Directors. He is the founder and Chairman of the Center for Quality Management.

Keynote Speech is open to all students
9am 32-123
Join us for a Networking Lunch afterwards!

For More Information, visit http://web.mit.edu/sebc/tef
Trio
by Emezie Okorafor

Moons of Uranus
by Juan Pablo Mendieta

Trio

You're wrong, B-chan! I actually do have a dream! My dream is to be with you and to someday start a family with LOTS of kids!

Trio

That's it? THAT'S your big dream? To be a 'mummy'? THAT's the unique gift you'd like to leave this world? You've got ONE! He... ONE chance to make a statement on this planet, and the only thing you have to say is 'hey, I got a uterus'?

Moons of Uranus

Oh, man! It's been done! Where's the originality?! I mean, it's not exactly that difficult to find a uterus around here... hey, like, all over the place! Walking down the street, driving by in cars, sitting next to you in class, or on a bus...

Moons of Uranus

I swear... these days it seems like everyone and their mother has a uterus.

Moons of Uranus

Well, I suppose that sentence is about 75% correct...

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Crossword Puzzle

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 17

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com

Bonus Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 19

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams
Gay in the Day
The LGBT Experience at MIT through the years

Thursday
April 20, 2006
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: 34-101
Food and refreshments served after panel discussion

http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/bgala

Battle of the Bands
Zeta Beta Tau
April 8, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
Lobdell Dining Hall

On Saturday night, Zeta Beta Tau’s Battle of the Bands 2006 opened to a packed room of prefrosh, parents, and students. Every year, up to ten local bands each compete for 15 minutes for the top spot (and $500), and ticket proceeds of the night go to the charity Children’s Miracle Network. On the roster this year were nine competing bands from MIT and the Boston area, and one guest band – Tremulant, featuring Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones. These bands were hoping to impress the audience and the three judges: Generoso Fierro, Chris McGill, and Adam Reynolds ’01.

I had never been to the Battle of the Bands before Saturday night, and I didn’t know what to expect. When High Voltage Research Lab (an MIT band, of course) began playing, I was excited to hear what these bands had to offer. Their first song sounded like an edgier version of Neil Young (in a good way), but unfortunately, at the same time I also realized just how loud the evening was going to be.

In keeping with the punk rock style of the bands, the volume was turned way up. Punk rock fans may have loved this, but most people in the audience (including this reviewer) found it far too loud. Some people tried to mitigate the noise with earplugs from LaVerde’s. In fact, one of the audience (including this reviewer) found it far too loud. Some people tried to mitigate the noise with earplugs from LaVerde’s. In fact, one of the judges listened to all the bands with earplugs. To make matters worse, the competition was held in a small space filled with large speakers. After about an hour and a half of the three hour show, I had to sit outside the door to save my hearing.

The noise level was obviously a real drawback to the event, as some of the bands would have been pretty good at a lower decibel. Of note, the winner, Spiritual Rez, had a unique blend of reggae, big band, and rock, which steered from the addition of a trombone and trumpet to the usual bass, guitar, and drums. Sweetfist had an interesting style, which sounded more professional, and unlike some of the other bands, less like a jumble of instruments. In addition, first runner-up Upper Hand, which featured two saxophonists, was actually quite enjoyable. The audience really got into their music, and everyone got a good laugh out of their fourth song, “Difference between you and quantum physics” (guess their department).

Nevertheless, the best performance of the night was from the one band not competing: Tremulant featuring Marilee Jones. The lead singer, Ben Jones (Admissions Office Communications Manager, no relation to Marilee), had a pure voice that could hit high notes with ease. He was overshadowed, however, when Marilee Jones came on stage, decked out in a leather jacket. Everyone was energized, and one pre-frosh even yelled out “thanks for admitting me!” When she started to sing “Big Yellow Taxi,” the whole crowd moved to the beat, and the highlight of the evening came when Tim the Beaver went crowd surfing.

Overall, the evening had a few good notes, but most of them were drowned out by the noise and length of the concert. Most people left after an hour or two, and only a few really hard core fans were able to stay for the full three hours. I would have rather just given the $8 to Children’s Miracle Network than sit through those three hours again.

CONCERT REVIEW

No One Wins in Battle of the Bands

Excessive Noise Drowns Out Talent, Admissions Office Hijinks

By Jillian Berry

April 14, 2006

There’s a lot to know about qualifying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You need to work and earn less than $34,692 if you have children, they must meet three qualifying tests, and that’s just to name a few. But the most important thing is knowing you can get help figuring it all out. Visit the IRS website at 1-800-TAX-1040 or ask your tax preparer. When it comes to getting help claiming everything you honestly deserve to get, call the IRS.

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The Tech
April 14, 2006
Mullins’ Mediocre Menagerie
9th Ward Pickin’ Parlor Pays Inadequate Tribute to New Orleans Music
By Andrew Guerra

Mullins became famous after his 1998 release of “Soul’s Core,” but he has largely faded back into obscurity since then. Interestingly, production of “9th Ward” began in Georgia, where Mullins was raised, but when Mullins decided the pieces lacked the sound that he wanted, production was moved to New Orleans. The title of the record refers to a recording studio in an area of New Orleans that was later destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Yet it appears as though Mullins achieved his desired effect. The rich musical history of New Orleans is obviously present in “9th Ward,” even as Mullins fails to capture its consummate form.

Due to its flaws, “9th Ward” still has some positive aspects. First, the different styles that Mullins uses here are most suitable to the subject matter of his songs. “Shimmer” of “Soul’s Core,” for example, is a song about how people are born to love, but end up learning how to hate. Yet it is also undeniably upbeat, which detracts from the song “9th Ward.” However, does not suffer such problems. In “Drown Your Swords, Boys,” the song sounds exactly like a hymn as Mullins sings about casting aside weapons and beginning a new day. “Cold Black and Frozen Ground,” is a song about a man and his true love, who dies on his mission. Mullins has greatly influenced byplace as Mullins describes flying to Alaska to escape his troubles and heartache. Mullins also manages to unite all of the songs on “9th Ward” with a similar pop sensibility. While the songs pay tribute to different types of music, they still contain certain structures and work that define them indelibly as Mullins’, even as banjos and mandolins play in the background.

Finally, while the diversity of style means that listeners will like different songs, there are a couple genuine good songs on the album. “All Fall Down” is a somewhat nonsensical song that’s really good, and court jesters that shows off Mullins’ ability to write a rock song. The other good song on the album is “House of the Wounded Soul,” which is a reminiscent of blues that Mullins describes flying to Alaska to escape his troubles and heartache. Mullins also manages to unite all of the songs on “9th Ward” with a similar pop sensibility. While the songs pay tribute to different types of music, they still contain certain structures and work that define them indelibly as Mullins’, even as banjos and mandolins play in the background.

The only thing that makes the film difficult to watch is the pacing, dialogue, and Scottish accents. The film fails to stand out in the genre of very similar British works, including movies as “The Full Monty” (1997), “Braveheart” (1995), and “Calendar Girls” (2003). In fact, “On a Clear Day” — although fun at parts — is my least favorite of this set of films.

"Daniel Johnston, a Devil of a Good Documentary"
By Yong-Yi Zhu

W hether you’re Danny Johnston’s biggest fan or have no idea who he is, the documentary “The Devil and Daniel Johnston” will both enlighten and entertain you with the tale of his fallible life and beautiful music. Johnston is a talented artist, filmmaker, and musician. As a child, he drew cartoon pictures and made films about his family, portraying his mother as mean and controlling, and himself as helpless. He simply wanted to communicate his thoughts and experiences through abstract and artistic methods.

Johnston never did well in school, partly because he focused so much on the arts, but eventually, he began to become succesful. Using his piano in his home, he records and distributes his own songs, but instead of making multiple copies of the same tape, he sings the entire set over and over again.

After an appearance on MTV, Johnston’s popularity begins to grow. Kurt Cobain, the lead singer of Nirvana, spotted a shirt of Johnston’s album “Hi, How Are You?”, on many of his appearances and several people in the music industry became interested in this mysterious songwriter. It seemed like Johnston’s fame was on the rise and his life was truly taking off, but that is only half of the story.

Underneath this glowing success, Johnston was a manic-depressive who spent significant emotional effort trying to fight off the demons he thought were always after him. This depression worsened when Johnston refused a contract with a record label because he thought were always after him. This depression caused him to become more distant and detached from the world.

The only thing that makes the film difficult to watch is the pacing, dialogue, and Scottish accents. The film fails to stand out in the genre of very similar British works, including movies as “The Full Monty” (1997), “Braveheart” (1995), and “Calendar Girls” (2003). In fact, “On a Clear Day” — although fun at parts — is my least favorite of this set of films.
Positions Available
Graduate Housing Opportunity

Description: A Resident Advisor is expected to serve as a mentor, guide, and resource for students and to serve as a liaison between the chapter and the Dean's Office. The RA is expected to know and educate FSILG students about MIT policies, applicable Chapter and/or Fraternity/Sorority headquarters policies, and common sense safety practices. Training is provided.

Remuneration: All Resident Assistants receive free room and board. In addition, some organizations may include a small stipend. Each Resident Advisor is furnished with a single room in the chapter facility.

Qualifications: A BA or BS and/or graduate enrollment at an accredited institution are required.

Crime family's trial, with twenty men who've managed to rack up over seventy charges, this movie focuses on one, Jackie DiNorscio (Yin Diesel), who decides to defend himself instead of hiring a lawyer, turning this serious matter into a farce. “Guilty” tries to force Diesel into a role that does not suit him at all, while telling a story that is only mildly interesting. Though the movie tries to be both a drama and a comedy, the writers manage to fail in every respect. (Yong-yi Zhu)

Ice Age: The Meltdown
This sequel begins where “Ice Age,” the first film, left off; the animals have found a warmer paradise and discovered that the ice age is coming to an end. More appealing to a younger audience, “Meltdown” has a straightforward plot — and unlike recent animated features that dabble in pop culture — doesn’t require viewers to be hip to get a good laugh. Despite the second-class graphic and predictable story, the movie is filled with creative humor, and it accomplishes one goal with ease: entertainment. (Hendrata Dharmawan)

Lucky Number Slevin
A boss, a rabbi, a man in a purple-flowered towel, a cop, a perky neighbor, an assassin, and a missing friend; sounds like a recipe for total disaster. Somehow, though, 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 these characters to make a disorienting dark comedy about a man who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time — all the time. In a strong male cast, Lucy Liu steals the show, and the superb acting is crucial; it makes this film come out just right. (Yong-yi Zhu)

She’s the Man
Starring Amanda Bynes, this movie is an unimpressive, medium-quality modern adaptation of the Shakespeare comedy “Twelfth Night.” There are two kinds of humor, witty and situational, and “She’s the Man” only excels at the latter. It could have been much more just a teenybopper movie with some awesome Shakespearean references, but that’s just not what they wanted for this picture. What a tragic ending for this comedy! (William Andrews)

Find Me Guilty
Based on the true story of an organized-crime family’s trial, with twenty men who’ve managed to rack up over seventy charges, this movie focuses on one, Jackie DiNorscio (Yin Diesel), who decides to defend himself instead of hiring a lawyer, turning this serious matter into a farce. “Guilty” tries to force Diesel into a role that does not suit him at all, while telling a story that is only mildly interesting. Though the movie tries to be both a drama and a comedy, the writers manage to fail in every respect. (Yong-yi Zhu)

Positions Available
for live-in Resident Advisors for MIT’s Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups. Applications are due by April 19, 2006, and are available online at: http://web.mit.edu/slp/fsilgs/ra.shtml

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Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT or Cambridge Police between March 23 and April 5. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

March 23: Bldg. 4 (182 Memorial Dr. Rear), 3:30 p.m., larceny of computer.
March 24: Bldg. 4 (182 Memorial Dr. Rear), 1:00 a.m., larceny of computer.
March 24: New House (471 Memorial Dr.), 2:45 a.m., sexual assault.
March 25: AEP (135 Bay State Rd.), 6:00 a.m., breaking & entering, laptop computer stolen.
March 28: Bldg. E225 (5 Carlton St.), larceny of cleaning supplies.
March 31: (n.p.), sexual assault reported (incident occurred Jan. 28).
March 31: Bldg. 4 (182 Memorial Dr. Rear), computer monitor stolen.

Compiled by Marjan Rafat with assistance from other members of the MIT Crime Club.

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<tr>
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<th>St. Louis</th>
<th>Rio de Janeiro</th>
<th>San Francisco</th>
<th>Tokyo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>$187</td>
<td>$313</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$588</td>
<td>$248</td>
<td>$691</td>
</tr>
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1 year old, 1991

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Come check out the Zero Waste Party!
Lots of sustainable door PRIZES and GAMES

Enjoy a party with your friends without burdening the environment!


Venue: TSMC Lobby
Stata Center
(near the Question Mark)

Date: 21st April 2006
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Cost: FREE

Please: Bring your own cup.
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The CCRR Grants Program funds events and activities that bring together racial, ethnic, and cultural groups to provide forums for addressing problems and concerns associated with race relations, to celebrate different cultures, and to increase awareness of the diversity that is MIT.

web.mit.edu/ccrr

Next Grant Application Deadline

1 May 2006

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Building of Reserve Interest Discouraged

Reserve, from Page 1

than use to build up the reserve account. It is unfair for student groups to save their reserve account, yet still asking for additional funding, he said.

Some student groups, such as the Lecture Series Committee and The Tech, hold reserve accounts they can use in case of a crisis.

Drew A. Reese ’07, chairman of the Lecture Series Committee, said that LSC has had a reserve account for “quite awhile” and uses the interest to go towards operations costs. According to Reese, LSC relies primarily on ticket sales for income and also uses its reserve account for extensive one-time purchases such as speakers. “We do try hard to shore up our reserve,” Reese said. “I don’t think that’s the best policy,” she said of the new system.

Tech Chairman Zachary A. Ozer ’07 said he could understand why Benedict would not want to foot the bill for the interest, but thinks that MIT student groups should have the opportunity to build interest on their money in some way, perhaps through an outside bank account that is overseen by MIT.

In July 2002, MIT ended support of all outside student group bank accounts, requiring ASA-recognized groups to hold their accounts with MIT.

Presented by: Local Sponsor: Media Partner:
Who should use mental health services?

Any student who is having troubles with stress, substance abuse, or mental health issues, should feel free to come to the mental health service at MIT Medical. Typical mental health issues include difficulties with relationships, family stresses, school stresses, break-ups, anxiety or worry, questions about sexual identity, eating issues and depression. Often these things are affecting the student’s ability to do his or her school work or enjoy things that usually are a source of pleasure.

What services does the MIT Mental Health Service provide?

MIT Mental Health Service works with individuals, couples, groups, and families. Services include evaluation, treatment (both psychotherapy and psychopharmacology), referrals, and urgent care. The Mental Health Service staff is comprised of a diverse group of clinicians from different disciplines and different approaches to psychotherapy including psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral therapy. The Mental Health Service offers many different therapy, support, and discussion groups. Mental health clinicians will listen to the needs of students, discuss the various types of treatment available, and make appropriate recommendations.

Is everything in a mental health visit really 100% confidential?

Everything that a student tells a mental health clinician is privileged information. This means that the information cannot be given to any other person without their permission. There are a few exceptions: 1) if the student is in serious danger of harming his or herself or someone else, then the clinician can notify other people in order to prevent harm; 2) if the student is involved in the abuse or neglect of a child or an elderly person, then the clinician is mandated to inform the appropriate agency.

This is one of a series of mental health FAQs developed by SHAC (Student Health Advisory Committee) with input from MIT Medical’s Mental Health Service. More questions and answers on mental health issues are available online.

Go to http://web.mit.edu/medical to find answers to the following questions:

- What should I do if I am worried about a friend or think he or she may want to harm his or her self?
- Sometimes I feel sad, other times overwhelmed but usually I get over it. Would going to MHS be helpful to me?
- How do I make an appointment?
- What should I expect at my first visit?
- Does it cost anything to use the mental health service at MIT Medical?

To learn more about SHAC membership, look out for our “Turn the Tables: Examine Medical” event, or visit our website http://web.mit.edu/medical/student.
Study Abroad Information Session

Thursday, April 20 2006
3 - 5 PM
1-277

Are you interested in enhancing your undergraduate experience by studying abroad? Come to ask questions and get more information.

Can’t make it to the session? Email studyabroad@mit.edu for more information, or stop by 26-153
Benedict Nod Req’d For Discipline Dean

New Dean, from Page 1

to interview candidates and make a choice to present to Benedict, who has the final say before an offer is extended.

Candidates for the new position must “be able to, first and foremost, educate the students about how to live within their own community and interact well with others,” said Immerman. The new dean will be in charge of trying to shed some light on exactly this matter of community and student interactions and conflicts within this community, he said.

In addition to working directly with Benedict’s office, new dean will also work with the judicial and mediation boards of student groups such as Judocomm, and with the Chair of the Committee of Discipline Professor Margery Resnick. Fischer and his predecessor Steven J. Tyrell both left quickly, within 9 months and 1.5 years, respectively. Benedict said that “both of our prior Deans left for career opportunities. They were very experi-
enced, senior staff members and it is not unusual for staff to pursue other career opportunities at this point in their careers.”

News Briefs, Continued

CI-M, from Page 1

year and evaluating their CI-M’s. Department visits will look at a va-

riety of factors, including how the CI portions of classes are taught by different professors and whether the goals of the communication requirement are being met, Frazer said.

Frazer said that members of the Subcommittee on the Communi-
cation Requirement also plan to examine recent Institute-conducted senior surveys over the summer for any data it could use.

—Marcia Vogt

Stellar Keeps Statistics Private

Stellar, MIT’s online course management system, does not make most of its usage statistics available to course staff.

In particular, when individual students download materials, read-

ings, or assignments, “log information is not available to instructors, TAs, or administrators, either on an individual or aggregate basis,” ac-
cording to Richard L. Garcia of Academic Computing.

According to Garcia, Stellar’s homework submission tool and dis-
cussion tool do let course staff see when homework assignments are submitted or posts are made to discussion boards.

Mark W. Brown, the project manager for Stellar, said that the archi-
tects of Stellar have been very conscious of student privacy issues, and have made a concerted effort not to compromise student privacy.

When asked about publishing Stellar’s policy for disclosure of logs, Garcia said that Stellar “certainly should make the policies we follow more visible, and we’ll incorporate that information into our upcoming site work.”

—John A. Hawkinson

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—Billy, age 15

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Fibonacci Poems Appear Online
After Invitation Posted in Blog

By Motoko Rich

blogs sprouted organically, and rumor spread over the Internet. Bots linked to Pincus’s original post, “News for nerds. Stuff that matters” — which runs over a tagline that reads “Stuff that matters. Stuff that matters” — was linked to Pincus’s original post, and suddenly, Fibs were spreading all over the Internet.

Pincus, who wrote in his original post that he conceived of the Fibonacci poems as part of a writing exercise, said in an interview that he figures more than 100 other Web sites have linked to his post and more than 1,000 Fibs have been written since the beginning of April, which just happens to be both National Poetry Month and Mathematics Awareness Month.

“It tickles me that it can spread like that,” said Pincus. “It’s such a wonderful thing.”

Readers of “The Da Vinci Code,” of course, may recognize the Fibonacci sequence as the key to one of the first clues left for the novel’s hero and heroine. It is also linked to one of the first clues left for the puzzle. Suresh Venkatasubramanian, a 32-year-old computer science researcher at AT&T Labs-Research in Florham Park, N.J., said he was attracted to the Fibonacci poetry because it reminded him of “what a computer scientist would call the ‘resource constraints.’”

On his GottaBook blog (gottabook.com) two weeks ago inviting readers to write “Fibs,” six-line poems that used a mathematical progression known as the Fibonacci sequence to dictate the number of syllables in each line.

Within a few days, Pincus, 41, had received about 30 responses, a large portion of them Fibonacci poems. Most of them were from friends or relatives or people who regularly read his blog, which focuses on children’s literature.

Then, last Friday, a subscriber to his GottaBook blog (gottabook.com) two weeks ago inviting readers to write “Fibs,” six-line poems that used a mathematical progression known as the Fibonacci sequence to dictate the number of syllables in each line.

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Readers of “The Da Vinci Code,” of course, may recognize the Fibonacci sequence as the key to one of the first clues left for the novel’s hero and heroine. It is also a staple of middle-school math classes. Though relatively rare in poetry, it shows up in the musical compositions of the early 20th-century composer Béla Bartok and the progressive metal band Tool, in the spiraling shape of the Nautilus shell and knitting patterns.

By and large, most of the people who have written Fibonacci poems over the past couple of weeks are not professional poets, but actors, comedians, video role-play enthusiasts, musicians, computer scientists, lawyers and schoolchildren. Casey Kelly Barton, a stay-at-home mother and home-schooler in Austin, Texas, who started a blog called Redneck Mother to chronicle her “disatisfaction after Bush got re-elected,” used the Fib form to write a rant against the president.

Chat rooms linked to Web sites ranging from Actuarial Outpost, a forum for actuaries, to emd11.com, a site for electronic musicians, have taken up Pincus’s challenge and generated strings of the whimsical poems. Even a Hungarian technology site has linked to the Fibonacci post.

The allure of the form is that it is simple, yet restricted. The number of syllables in each line must equal the sum of the syllables in the two previous lines. So, start with 0 and 1, add them together to get your next number, which is also 1. 2 comes next; then add 2 and 1 to get 3, and so on. Pincus structured the Fibs to top out at line six, with eight syllables.

For many people, writing one of the poems is a little like solving a puzzle. Suresh Venkatasubramaniam, a 32-year-old computer science researcher at AT&T Labs-Research in Florham Park, N.J., said he was attracted to the Fibonacci poetry because it reminded him of “what a computer scientist would call the ‘resource constraints.’” On his blog, Geomblog, Venkatasubramian added two more lines to Pincus’s original prescription, while still keeping to the Fibbonacci sequence.

I like to blog. Frequently. Theory matters. Computer science (theory) is my home and geometric algorithms are sublime. Let P be a set of points in general position in the plane. Amen.

The last line, said Venkatasubramian, is an inside joke in geometry.

Emily Galvin, a screenwriter and film production assistant who is writing a collection of poems and short plays in verse for Tupelo Press, has written one of her plays using the Fibonacci sequence. Instead of using the progression to dictate the number of syllables in a line, she let it regulate the number of words.

Galvin, who said an ex-boyfriend once sent her love notes composed in the Fibonacci sequence, was delighted to learn of Pincus’s success in spreading Fibs around the Internet. “How great that something mathematical could be bringing together all sorts of people who don’t write professionally and giving them a form,” she said.

More professional poets may be attracted to the form, said Anne Finch, a poet who teaches at the University of Southern Maine. “Poets are very, very hungry for love constraints that allow the self to step out of the picture a little bit. The form gives you something to dance with so it’s not just you alone on the page.”

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Solution to Bonus Crossword

http://web.mit.edu/slp/
Sport Taekwondo Wins Tourney

By Rosemary Pike

Last weekend the MIT Sport Taewondo team attended the Yale Tournament, the first league tournament since October. MIT saw high-scoring matches with its competitors dominating their opponents, as well as nail-biting, last-second points that resulted in overtime, sudden-death rounds. But MIT once again brought home the trophy in style, taking top spot among the twelve participating colleges.

In the first sparring matches of the day, the black belt competition (the A teams) faced off. The two MIT women’s teams had taken first and second at the previous two tournaments. Women’s A2 (Rene R. Chen ’07, Maria Parra-Orlandoni G, and Zeyyan Chu ’07) continued to control the field, defeating one Cornell team in an awesome quarterfinal match. The team lost in a competitive round to West Point in the semi-finals, but beat an experienced team from Brown University. Lei made his sparring debut as MIT’s top women’s A team in the final, wiping out the Cornell A1 team, beating Temple to take third. The very experienced B1 team of (Bobby B. Ren G, Richard D. Chambers G, and Liau) followed the A2 team, defeating one Cornell team in overtime, sudden-death. But that didn’t stop Corinna Hui ’09 from beating Temple andCornell to take second place. Lei, who had also won a silver medal in forms earlier, won her first match by a whopping 14-3, but Hui would not be outdone, and won hers 26-1.

The men’s team, Steven H. Petraus ’09, Christopher J. Han ’09 (forms gold medalists), and Hector C. Vasquez ’09, did well in a tough bracket. Petraus won his first match 8-6, using MIT’s signature inside game to its advantage. Han used his speed and power to completely outclass his opponent, scoring with multiple kicks at each exchange. After two clean wins, the team lost by a sudden death to Yale, taking the third place trophy.

The day ended with B-Team sparring. As usual, the MIT team stepped to dominate their opponents, as well as planning to end the year strong at Columbia on April 29.

Saturday, April 15, 2006

Varsity Men’s Heavyweight Crew – Compton Cup
7 a.m., Charles River

Varsity Women’s Openweight Crew vs. North-eastern University and Columbia University
9 a.m., Charles River

Varsity Women’s Lightweight Crew vs. Radcliffe College, University of Rhode Island, UMass-Amherst
1 p.m., Briggs Field

Varsity Women’s Tennis vs. Trinity College
12 p.m., die Point Tennis Courts

Varsity Women’s Lacrosse vs. Mount Holyoke College
1 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Varsity Men’s Lacrosse vs. Norwich University
1 p.m., Steinhube Stadium

Sunday, April 16, 2006

Varsity Sailing — Obery Trophy
9 a.m., Charles River

Midfielder Deanna M. Lentz ’07 prepares a pass during the Engineers’ 12-15 loss against Babson College on the Jack Barry AstroTurf Field Tuesday. Lentz led the Engineers with 5 goals and 2 assists.