By Marissa Vogt

NightOwl Service Awaits Approval For TechCASH

Approval of local delivery company NightOwl's application to become a vendor that accepts TechCASH is being delayed by an MIT policy that requires all TechCASH vendors to have a $10 million insurance policy. The application was officially submitted on July 5. Felix Benderly, co-founder of NightOwl, originally said that he expected NightOwl to be a TechCASH vendor by September for the start of the new academic year.

Felix Bendersky, co-founder of NightOwl, said that the insurance policy is necessary because of the MIT's liability concerns about the nighttime activities on campus. "The insurance policy is necessary," McDonald said, "because if MIT enters into a legal agreement with NightOwl, it implicitly takes on some responsibility for the company's activities on campus. Such an agreement, he said, is "drafted by the MIT legal office."

At the moment, MIT students can "drafted by the MIT legal office." the company's activities on campus. A result of NightOwl's operation on campus, said that he was not impressed, it is plentiful, hot, slightly greasy, and satisfying. The low prices make meals here worth it every time.

According to Bendersky, NightOwl is not going to abandon its application to be a TechCASH vendor, saying that they still plan to "push it. "We want to do this for the students and the school," Benderly said.

NightOwl already subscribes to the card program at Northeastern University and Berklee School of Music in Boston.

John M. McDonald, associate director of enterprise services, said that the insurance policy would cover damages to MIT property and personal injury that might occur as a result of NightOwl's operation on campus.

The insurance policy is necessary, McDonald said, because if MIT enters into a legal agreement with NightOwl, it implicitly takes on some responsibility for the company's activities on campus. Such an agreement, he said, is "drafted by the MIT legal office." At the moment, MIT students can "drafted by the MIT legal office."
Israel Says Blockade of Lebanon Will Continue

By Warren Hoge

Israel’s prime minister, Ehud Olmert, rebutted a request on Wednes- day from the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, for even a partial lifting of the seven-week-old blockade of Lebanon.

Addressing a joint meeting at the prime minister’s residence in Jerusalem that he would prefer that Israel complete- ly lift its blockade of air, sea and land traffic into Lebanon, he wanted Olmert at least to allow Beirut’s airport to resume normal operations.

But Olmert rejected that idea. In doing so, he referred to Annan’s previous insistence that all parties to the UN-brokered cease-fire on Aug. 14 abide by all of its provisions.

Speaking at a joint news conference, Olmert recycled for his own purposes the same metaphor Annan had used moments before to say the cease-fire resolution was not a sopsorogated.

“As far as we are concerned,” Olmert said, “we entirely accept that it is a fixed menu and that everything will be implemented, in- cluding the lifting of the blockade, as part of the entire implementa- tion.

Therefore, he said, Israel cannot lift the blockade, imposed to pre- vent the smuggling of arms to Hezbollah, on one part of Lebanon and not on others.

Monitors Fault Sri Lanka Over Killing Aid Workers

By Shamila Senayake and Somini Sengupta

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

In a searing indictment of the Sri Lankan government, Swedish-led cease-fire monitors on Wednesday accused government security forces of killing 17 aid workers this early in August in one of the worst attacks against humanitarian workers worldwide in recent years.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, cited three reasons for its conclusion. First, it noted, security forces had been in the time of the killings. The second, the government had barred the monitors from the scene immediately after the bodies had been discovered. Third, confidential conversations with “highly reli- able sources” had pointed to the culpability of the security forces.

No other group, the Monitoring Mission concluded, would have been in a position to carry out the killings, which it called a “gross violation” of the tetailed cease-fire.

Pressures Increase on Pakistan’s Government

By Carlotta Gall and Salman Masood

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Carlotta Gall and Salman Masood

The government of Pakistan came under mounting political pressure on Tuesday as rioting continued for the third day in Bahraich after the killing of a prominent rebel tribal leader, and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz faced a no-confidence vote lodged by an alliance of op- position parties.

Four people died in the protests — three in a bomb explosion and one policeman in clashes with protesters, news agencies reported.

The opposition failed in its no-confidence vote against Aziz, a former executive with Citibank, garnering only 136 of the 172 votes needed to unseat the 42-member Pakistan National Assembly. But the vote was seen as an opening maneuver by the opposition alliance in a contentious atmosphere ahead of elections in 2007.

Another group of military force that led to the death of the 79-year-old-old political leader and former legislator, Nawab Akbar Allah Bund, 79, in a mountain cabin in his native Bahraich, in the south, and criticized the president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who is also the head of the army.

Sluggish Service Claim After Rush For Loan Consolidation

By Felicity Barringer

WASHINGTON

California’s political leaders an- nounced an agreement on Wednes- day that imposes the most sweeping controls on carbon-dioxide emis- sions in the nation, putting the state at the forefront of a national effort to curb the man-made causes of cli- mate change despite resistance in Washington.

The deal between the Demo- cratic-controlled Legislature and the Republican governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, calls for a 25 per- cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020, and could estab- lish controls on the large industrial sectors, from utilities to oil refineries to cement plants. The state has already placed strict limits on automo- bile emissions, although that is being challenged in federal court.

In addition, Congress abolished a requirement that a student who bor- rowed from just one lender must con- solidate with that lender. Now students can shop around for the best deal and switch financial institutions. If lenders slow the process, the borrowers are frozen in place — at least for a while.

NextStudent notified the federal Education Department last week of the deal it had encouraged. “We tried to resolve this issue with the conferences, directly, at the staff level or further up,” Wallace said. “We’ve finally resorted to going to the regula- tory authority that has jurisdiction.”

One problem even came up with one of its own employees, Aaron Kanitz, who started the process of consolidating his student loans through NextStudent. He said he learned in June that his origi- nal lender was saying he had changed his mind. “I had never made any in- dication verbally or written that would be the case,” said Kanitz, who declined to identify the lender for fear of jeopardizing his consolidation.

The Education Department can im- pose money penalties on lenders and, in extreme cases, can bar them from participating in federal loan programs.

Fighting Friction in Washington, CA Leaders Clear Emissions Bill

By Jonathan D. Glater

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With Iran defying a Thursday deadline to begin scaling back heavy water fuel, the United States, and three European Union nations, are assembling a list of sanctions they would seek to impose on the U.N. Security Council, beginning next week, in an effort to stop Iran from developing nuclear material.

Some of the punitive measures might expand to restrict travel by Iran’s leaders and limit the country’s access to items that can be used to build nuclear weapons, according to diplomats who say the talks would speak only on condition of anonymity.

Despite the effort in the Security Council, the Bush administration is also seeking to persuade European financial institutions to stop lending to Iran. Some Swiss banks have already quietly agreed to limit their lending. U.S. officials say.

Even as that process shapes up across the United States, Britain, France and Germany, the push for sanctions faces a high hurdle in the Security Council, given Russia and China’s position of veto power and their opposition to imposition of serious punishment for Iran.

In addition, the sanctions effort may be complicated by a speech by President Bush is scheduled to be issued on Thursday by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which inspectors will describe only slow progress by Iran in enriching uranium.

The report, according to diplomatic sources, says Iran has resumed producing small amounts of enriched uranium at the Fordow site in the spring, but has not increased the rate of production since then.

Furthermore, the report is expected to say that the purity of the uranium material would not be high enough for use in nuclear weapons, but for power plants. Iran has long insisted that it has a peaceful purpose for its nuclear program.

“The big question is why they appear to be moving so slowly,” said one European official who has seen the report. “There are several explanations for that.”

One is that Iran has failed to answer suspected nuclear activities that it has declared to show how it has a fundamento...
Opinion

Refunds to Encourage Responsibility

Last fall, the weeks following Orientation were marred by nine freshman alcohol-related incidents. Contrary to stereotypical beliefs, most of these incidents did not take place at fraternity or sorority parties, but the majority occurred at small unregistered room parties in dormitories.

Parties are an integral component of campus life, and students will inevitably throw parties with alcohol. We believe that MIT should reinstate the alcohol policy that was in place before 1997, when students were permitted to use Institute funds to purchase alcohol for registered parties. While such a policy does little to curb the occurrence of underage drinking, it encourages responsible alcohol consumption.

The post-1997 policy was put in place by the Institute in response to dangerous alcohol consumption prevalent in fraternities in the years leading up to the death of Scott S. Krueger '01. The Institute's policy requiring that all freshmen live on campus and a more formal party registration system has helped frazzlenizers encourage this behavior.

Now the Institute must shift to dorm issues. Right now, dorm parties that are registered are monitored solely by the registrar. The administration knows that underage drinking happens, as evidenced by its adoption of a “no fault” alcohol policy; however, administrators often (and inconsistently) choose to look the other way when students drink, sometimes with deleterious consequences.

In addition, dorm residents, including freshmen, continue to tap into residential social funds in order to sponsor wet room parties. Receipt swapping allows them to turn off alcohol as a mandaude purchase such as juice or chips. By setting policy it knows will not be followed, the Institute ignores the real danger, which is physical harm caused by drinking irresponsibly.

If parties are registered with MIT, they can be monitored by MIT and the campus police, helping to keep abusive drinking to a minimum. However, given the current reluctance to register parties, incentives must exist for students to do so. As students

No Evidence Supporting Refund Proposal

By Rosa Cao

Today's Editorial makes a number of assertions that are more hyperbole than credibility. Did MIT's pre-1997 policy keep students safer than today's? The authors have a theory, but MIT administrators presumably have the numbers. Are registered fraternity parties safer than dormitories? They might be, but without talking to people — Dean Trujillo is one suggestion — whose job it is to monitor the situation, we don't have any evidence one way or the other. Students ignore the current party-registration policy (hence the authors' motivation to suggest a new one). If MIT allowed dormitory money to be spent on alcohol, would undergraduates really come out of the woodwork to register their drinking-parties and exclude their underage friends? Probably not.

What, then, are the two members of our five-member editorial board who signed the above editorial really saying? They hope that students' hands over “receipt swapping,” but rather than asking for a crackdown on this small-time fraud, they ask that the black market be legitimized. They don't argue that we shouldn't be using student dormitory money to set aside from alcohol, and other dodges? Student drinking is inevitable, alcohol-related deaths are not. MIT cannot continue to have different policies in principle and practice.

The Tech's Executive Editor Zachary Ozer '07 and Marie Y. Thibault have recused themselves from this editorial.

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 writers. The editor in chief and managing editor choose to publish their disagreements with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily of the Tech. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, PO Box 709729, Cambridge, MA 02239-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W26-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication. Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

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

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community. Each submission is italicized. Columns without italics are written by Tech staff.

To Reach Us

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Executive Editor

By Rosa Cao

Today's Editorial makes a number of assertions that are more hyperbole than credibility. Did MIT's pre-1997 policy keep students safer than today's? The authors have a theory, but MIT administrators presumably have the numbers. Are registered fraternity parties safer than dormitories? They might be, but without talking to people — Dean Trujillo is one suggestion — whose job it is to monitor the situation, we don't have any evidence one way or the other. Students ignore the current party-registration policy (hence the authors' motivation to suggest a new one). If MIT allowed dormitory money to be spent on alcohol, would undergraduates really come out of the woodwork to register their drinking-parties and exclude their underage friends? Probably not.

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By Kailas Narendran
August 31, 2006

**Pros**
- Convenient internal stowage for USB dongle
- Excellent tracking
- Lots of degrees of freedom
- Tiny form for easy transport
- Lots of degrees of freedom
- Excellent tracking

**Cons**
- Bit small for big hands
- Tiny form for easy transport
- Lots of degrees of freedom
- Excellent tracking

**Lowdown**

The V400 is a revolution in portable mouseing. It's a compact, wireless USB dongle mouse solution, with an innovative stow mouse for your laptop that provides a portable mouse without its dongle is like a fluorescent light fixture without the ballast, a car without the wheels, or a car without beer. The unique innovation in the design of the V400, not found in any other portable mouse, is the miniature USB dongle, and matching stow away compartment located in the body of the mouse! The mouse and dongle travel together in your bag, like a band in glove, till a flick of the finger unleashes the hidden weapon from the mothership, transforming it from an unassuming paperweight, to the samurai sword of the road warrior.

The construction of the mechanism was, as mentioned before, both innovative and very solid. It's a feat of engineering and design that enabled Logitech to cram so much into a tiny package.

**Interfacing**

The fundamental problem with laptops has always been the human interface. While the trackpad or any other lack of two-dimensional control has been great when you're squished in a plane seat, lecture hall, or bidell car in a third world country, it just doesn't make sense when you have first world comfort like a flat 12”x12” space to move a mouse. The interface of this mouse is full of features such as a tilt wheel (trolls up and down, as well as tilting to left and right), the pass left and right button, and an up down finger button.

The mouse utilizes a "dual laser engine" with an invisible laser to deliver excellent tracking performance on almost all surfaces. I tested it on everything from a standard mouse pad to white paper (that standard optical mice fail on) with excellent results.

**Software**

A common disappointment and pet peeve of mine is an innovative hardware product coupled with only marginal software. Logitech delivers a great package with the V400, includiing SetPoint, a well-designed and written software driver and control panel that allow you to control and configure all your Logitech desktop hardware. The program allows you to easily and intuitively configure all the buttons and switches. It also has special settings for game support, providing the needed functionality for all applications.

**The Bottom Line**

The V400 has a suggested retail price of $50. A quick run through Froogle indicated it can easily be found for as low as $35. It also comes in a variety of colors to match your mobile computing color palette. You can find more information at [http://www.logitech.com/](http://www.logitech.com/).
ARTS

BOOK REVIEW

Tempus Fugit Never Reaches Potential
Founding Fathers Novel Doesn’t Fly

By Jillian Berry
ARTS EDITOR

Tempus Fugit
By: Lawrence Lee Rowe
Published by: MDR Press

*Tempus Fugit* (Time Flies), by Lawrence Lee Rowe, explores the question, “What would the founding fathers do if they lived today?” The novel begins with George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, each showing up with $100,000 in contemporary South Dakota – right in front of Mount Rushmore. The founding fathers quickly discover they have been transported (from different times) to the future. While they realize they are famous and could make their presence known to the world, these three august figures decide instead to learn about modern America to determine if their dreams have been realized. Thus Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson commence on an expedition to gather as much knowledge as possible about the fledgling country they left behind two centuries ago.

The idea for *Tempus Fugit* is an interesting one, and one that many people (including myself) have probably pondered. In contemporary culture, politics has lost much of people’s respect through the corruption and scandal that have plagued it in last half century. Thus, the question arises, if the founding fathers were brought to the future, would they still be considered great men? Or would what they become be just … well … politicians?

While the concept for the novel is a good one, the actual work falls short of expectations. First off, there is the issue of language. The author cannot seem to decide whether the founding fathers should speak as they would in their time or in ours. Often, certain words from the past (i.e. notes for money) are used, but in general the characters just sound like modern men, albeit a bit stiff and formal. In addition, the work brings up many historical events which often do nothing to further the plot or character development. Although some of these events are interesting, they nevertheless give the novel the feeling of a textbook.

Luckily, both these flaws become less noticeable as the work progresses, and the characters become more realistic in their words and actions.

The lack of plot development is also disappointing. Most of the novel is spent watching the founding fathers discover and grasp all of the technologies and rituals of the modern world. As the story only covers a few days, there is little action. And perhaps as result of the author’s plans to write at least one sequel, the end of this book leaves you feeling abandoned.

On the bright side, the second half of *Tempus Fugit* is much more engaging than the first, and at the end, you begin to realize why the founding fathers were brought to the future. This question lingers throughout the book, making the abrupt cliffhanger ending doubly unsatisfying.

While there are certainly flaws, the novel as a whole is not without merit. Once you get into it, you begin to see the founding fathers as real men, rather than as larger-than-life icons carved into a mountain and pictured on our currency. In particular, you learn that Washington was a great general (obviously), but with perhaps more brawn than brains. In addition, you discover that Jefferson and Washington had a falling out a few years before Washington passed away, and you witness Jefferson’s constant internal struggles with confidence and hypocrisy.

*Tempus Fugit* is an interesting novel that fails to live up to its amazing potential.

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Lottery Opened Before Orientation Officially Began

Adjustment Lottery Statistics

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Prereq: --
Units: 3-0-9
Lecture: T3-4.30 (56-614)

Analyses of major causes of mortality in the US since 1900: cancers, diabetes, vascular and infectious diseases. Analytical models to derive estimates for historically variant population risk factors and physiological rate parameters. Analysis of familial and community data to separately estimate inherited and environmental risks. Basic population genetics and technology to discover genes carrying risk for common diseases. New this fall: consideration of role of novel nuclear forms in human and mouse embryos that appear to act as “stem” cells for fetal organogenesis and carcinogenesis. (Meets with graduate course, 20.215)

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How Do You Measure the Growth of a Child?

The space donated by The Tech
Reif: Biggest Challenge to New Students is Adjusting

RR: The way we are organized today, most of the programs that address student needs are run through their deans, the Deans for Student Life, Undergraduate Education, and Graduate Students, into the Office of the Chancellor. I certainly believe, and the Chancellor does too, that it is extremely important for student activities and the faculty and academic programs to be integrated. The Chancellor and I work very well together and certainly have been available to meet with students and understand their needs and concerns on a steady-state basis. But from the organizational standpoint, they go through their deans into the Chancellor's office.

TT: What advice do you have for the incoming new students based on your own college experience?

RR: A wonderful question. Our students here take full advantage of what MIT has to offer, to the point that perhaps they forget to sleep occasionally. The best advice that I believe I can offer is take advantage of everything we have, from the academic side to the non-academic side, to get the best experience they can out of their four years at MIT, and as best they can, try to have a ball.

TT: You think the major joys and challenges new students will face?

RR: I think the biggest challenge is adjustment. Before I came to this office, I'd been an undergraduate advisor for all the years I'd been at MIT, and I always got a group of about 20 or so sophomores. I would be with them until they graduated and then a year later I would get another group of sophomores. Every time I got a new group of sophomores, I always had the same experience. They would come to my office at registration, the first time that I would meet them, and we would discuss about subjects and so forth, and they would always tell me, and inevitably it would be almost the same thing, that everybody else looks smarter than they were. And one student would tell me that that and leave my office, and in would come the next one to tell me exactly the same thing and leave my office, and in would come the next one. I think the adjustment is from being some of the smartest kids in their own environment in high school to coming here and thinking that everyone else is smarter. It takes a while to realize that everybody here is as smart as everybody else.

TT: What's the biggest joy you will be when our students find that area they really love, when they connect with that activity, that's the biggest joy they will find. And by large, almost every one of our undergraduates finds that joy at MIT.

TT: What were your first impressions of MIT when you first came here?

RR: I came here as a member of the faculty; I didn't study here. I've been here since then, and I think every faculty member will tell you, the reason being an MIT faculty is a dream job is that faculty are able to teach with the students we teach here to work and to the students we work with here. MIT is perfect for the students who come here, and the students who come here benefit greatly from MIT.

TT: I was extremely impressed then and, and even before I came, when I was deciding to come — with the students we have. They were then, they are still today, and I am sure they will continue to be, just the best students you can find.

TT: What are some of the challenges currently facing MIT? What are you currently spending your time working on?

RR: Well, I think the current challenge is to look at how the landscape outside MIT is changing, how the world is much more global than it used to be, and even when I came to MIT. The biggest challenge is to understand what kind of graduates the U.S. and the world needs today. We want our graduates to succeed in the economy that is expecting them within five years. That's one of the areas in which I am concerned is that MIT is paying quite a bit of attention to.

TT: Are you involved with some of the ongoing campus issues, such as mental health care for students, or hiring and retaining a diverse faculty?

RR: Every issue that deals with faculty, I am certainly very heavily involved. Hiring and retaining a diverse faculty is an important priority. Issues that deal with services and their quality are issues that I am aware of, but I am not directly in a managing line to do things.

TT: If there were one thing that you think new students should do in their first semester, when they first come to campus, what would it be?

RR: I think I would say that there are several first things a student should do. I think that students should try to get to know a faculty member or some person who is assigned to help them acculturate to the MIT environment. A student should find other students to connect with. It's a new environment, and it's good to socially connect with other students. All of these are going the same experience.

TT: To find a stable social support environment is important, and to find a way to be helped to transition into MIT is important, via faculty or via some of the other services that we pro vide to do that.

TT: When you're not in the office, how do you spend your time?

RR: I love reading. I love reading about history. I love reading about what people in important positions, how did they make decisions at the time that changed the course of history. I am fascinated by that. Not that I find a great deal of time to do that these days, but I try to read a little bit on a daily basis.
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Men’s Soccer Hopes to Build on Momentum in 2006

By Ryan Lanphere

The 2005 MIT Varsity Men’s Soccer team awoke from a deep slumber late last season at the NEWMAC Championships, someth- ing that was only good for a last place finish. The team hopes to build on momentum from the end of last season to hit the ground running in 2006. As Coach Walter A. Alessi put it, “We finished strong last season and have most of our players returning so we have high expectations.” These expectations include winning the NEWMAC tournament and an NCAA turnamen- t bid.

The losses of graduating co-captain Walter Song ’06 (first team All-New England and first team all-NEWMAC) and four-year letter- man and co-captain Josef L. Miler ’09 should not have too big an im- pact, given that the other nine start- ers remain on the 2006 team. Expect big seasons from last year’s leading scorers co-captain forward Ryan T. Shaffer ’07 (first team all-NEWMAC and MIT top scorer) and Chace J. Lochmiller ’08 (second for MIT in goals scored), leading the attack up front.

Managing the middle, co-captain Chris R. Desrochers ’08 (second team All-Conference) will make his presence felt up the middle distrib- uting the ball to forwards Shaffer and Lochmiller after finishing second on the team in 2005 with six assists.

The Engineers also have an ex- perienced backfield with defense- man Nitin Perumbeti ’09 (second team all-NEWMAC) and goalkeep- er Thomas S. Caldwell ’09, making scoring goals on the Engineers no easy task.

Senior forward Alex R. Morgan should also return to make a big impact this year after spending the 2005 season abroad in Cambridge, England. In an extremely competitive conference “all league games are important,” said Coach Alessi. The Engineers will open their season on September 1 at Recreation Stadium versus Fontbonne University, with the kickoff set for 3:00 p.m.

Coach Alessi (2002 and 2003 NEWMAC Men’s soccer coach of the year) returns for his 31st season on the sidelines for the MIT Men’s Soccer team. With a career record of 196-241-30 he is one of the long- est tenured and most often victorious soccer coaches at MIT.

With their eyes set on a new- NEWMAC title and a NCAA Tournamen- t bid, team members will have no room to relax in 2006. Every contest on the schedule will be as im- portant as the next in order to demon- strate that the Engineers are a team to be reckoned with in 2006.

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