Investigation Ongoing in Kendall Sq. Fire
MIT-Owned Building Transformer Explosion Kills One, Others Suffer Smoke Inhalation

By Erica S. Wang

The causes of the Friday, Dec. 8 fire in the basement of One Broadway is still under investigation by State Fire Services and the Cambridge Fire Department. The fire broke out at 10:45 a.m. when an NSTAR transformer exploded, resulting in the death of 28-year-old NSTAR employee Kevin Fidalgo. 30 others were hospitalized for smoke inhalation and 700 to 800 were evacuated.

The MIT-owned building, also known as Bldg. E70, is an investment property primarily occupied by tenants. The Kendall fire, one of the city's most notorious last year, is regularly visited by public safety problems.

Students Increase Tensions In Boston Neighborhoods

By Adrienne P. Samuels

College students, who for years have lived in large numbers in neighborhods such as The Fenway and Allston/Brighton, increasingly appear to transform the other neighborhood around Boston. New city statistics tracking the number of students living off campus show sharp increases in neighborhods including Beacon Hill and Mission Hill in Roxbury. At the same time, tensions have mounted in some neighborhoods where residents blame students for increased litter, noise, and public safety problems.

“Things should have been in place” to prevent that much smoke, said Jennifer Mithr from State Fire Services, referring to the building’s fire code.

Proposals For Promoting Grad Student Life Picked

By Nick Bushak

The MIT Graduate Students Office has announced a new Graduate Student Life Fund, which will provide grants to support activities and events for graduate students. The fund is designed to support activities that enhance the graduate student experience and promote a sense of community among graduate students.

In Short

* The deadline to waive the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan is Dec. 19.
* Final exam schedule can be found at http://web.mit.edu/registrar/www/schedules/exams.html.
* The Winter Break Shuttle to Logan Airport will be available from Dec. 20-23, departing from the Kendall station. A shuttle fee of $7 will be billed to students' accounts or via student payroll deductions. Advance reservations are required and will be processed through the MIT shuttle website. Please see http://web.mit.edu/transportation/shuttle/airport.html for scheduling and availability.

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

Volume 126, Number 60 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Tuesday, December 12, 2006

This is the last issue of The Tech before winter break. The Tech will publish every Wednesday during IAP.
No Snow in Sight

People anxious about snow might have to wait a little longer. No snow is in sight for at least the next few days. This is not out of the ordinary and we might well have to wait even longer — 16 years between 1891 and 2002 have recorded less than one inch of snow in December. Of course, a single storm might be able to pull the snow measurement up to the average of seven inches for this month.

Temperatures will drop today as a strong high pressure system moves over our region (1014 mb in the map). This high will bring clear skies and the relatively cold temperatures that are normal for this time of the year. After the passage of the anticyclone, a weakened front will sweep through, bringing warmer temperatures for Wednesday and Thursday and also the possibility of rain showers (only liquid precipitation though).

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High 44°F (7°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 30°F (-1°C).


Secretary-General Urges US To Reject Unilateral Policy

By Warren Hoge

The New York Times

In a clear reference to the lack of international support for the American action in Iraq, he said, “No state can make war — illegal,” he said Monday that while observing international law can be “inconvenient,” it is essential.

He said the United States was a model democracy “in which everyone, including the most powerful, is subject to legal restraint.”

His current moment of world supremacy gives it a priceless opportunity toenthuse the same principles at the global level,” he continued.

He reminded his audience that Truman had once said, “We all have to recognize no matter how great our strength, that we must defer ourselves the license to do always as we please.”

Annan also cited Truman’s statement that “the responsibility of great states is to serve and not dominate the peoples of the world,” and noted approvingly how Truman had used American power to face down a threat to international order during his administration.

He believed strongly that henceforth security must be collective and indivisible, Annan said. “That was why, for instance, that he insisted, when faced with aggression by North Korea against the South in 1950, on bringing the issue to the United Nations and placing US troops under the UN flag, at the head of a multilateral force.”

Major Parties in Talks to Break Shiites Cleric Al-Sadr’s Influence

By Edward Wong

The New York Times

Hewlett’s Longtime CFO Schedules His Retirement

By Darren Dunlin

The New York Times

Hewlett-Packard said Monday that its longtime chief financial officer, Robert P. Wayman, would retire at the end of this month and leave the company’s board in March. His departure, which he said had long been planned, leaves another board vacancy in what has been a tumultuous period for the company.

Wayman, who joined the company as an accountant in 1969, was named to the top finance job in 1984. He served briefly as the chief executive during a period of upheaval in 2005 between the board’s firing of Mark H. Hurd, the current and chief executive officer. The Hewlett board awarded him a $3 million bonus for the 52-day stint.

Wayman became chief financial officer, the company’s an-

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New Trial, Supreme Court Rules

BY LINDA GREENHOUSE
WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court ruled Monday that the federal appeals court in California overstepped its author-
ity when it granted a new trial to a murder defendant whose victim’s relatives sat at the trial, in view of the jury, wearing buttons with the victim’s picture on them.

The appeals court, in granting a writ of habeas corpus, found that the buttons were inherently preju-
dicial and deprived the defendant, Matthew Mustaphin, of the right to a fair trial.

Voting 9-0, the Supreme Court overturned that ruling in an opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas that did not actually decide whether the but-
tons were prejudicial. That was, and remains, “an open question in our jurisprudence,” Thomas said. And that was precisely where the appeals court had gone wrong, the justices all agreed, it had based a grant of habeas corpus on a legal principle that the Supreme Court itself had not adopted.

A writ of habeas corpus is a judicial declaration that a prison inmate has been wrongfully con-
icted or sentenced. The decision Monday was the Supreme Court’s latest effort to interpret and apply a 10-year-old federal statute that sub-
stantially restricted the ability of federal judges to use habeas corpus to overturn state-court judgments.

The statute, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, provides that the writ “shall not be granted” unless the state court had issued a decision “that was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable ap-
lication of, clearly established fed-
eral law, as determined by the Su-
preme Court of the United States.”

The statutory language has proved to be a good deal less pre-
cise than it looks. When is federal law “clearly established” and what constitutes an “unreasonable appli-
cation of” it? The Supreme Court has been wrestling with these ques-
tions, often in contention with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the San Francisco-based appeals court that continues to grant writs of habeas corpus considerably more often than the Supreme Court be-
lieves it should.

By Andrew E. Kramer

Shell Offers to Sell Stake in Oil and Gas Platform to Russia’s Gazprom

Royal Dutch Shell offered on Monday to sell a stake in its $20 bil-
lion Sakhalin Island project to Gaz-
prom, in a capitulation to the Krem-
in’s campaign to tighten control over the oil industry.

Shell’s chief executive, Jeroen van der Veer, made the offer after months of pressure by Russia’s en-
vironmental regulators, who threat-
ed to freeze work on Sakhalin 2 by revoking critical operating permits.

Gazprom said in a statement on Monday that it would study Shell’s new offer. Analysts said a deal could come as early as the end of the month.

Sakhalin 2, owned 55 percent by Shell, 25 percent by Mitsui and 20 percent by Mitsui, has sev-
eral large components: two offshore platforms, pipelines, and the world’s largest liquefied natural gas plant.

Asian nations on the hunt for energy supplies are seeking lique-

cated gas from the project. Gas from the Sakhalin 2 operation has already been sold through future supply con-
tracts to Japan, South Korea, and China.

Gazprom already has a monopoly on Russian gas supplies to Europe and wants the same in Asia and it ru-
fuses to be undercut by any indepen-
dent operator of Sakhalin 2.

A Shell spokesman, Maxim Shoob, confirmed that van der Veer met on Friday with Gazprom’s chief executive, Alexei B. Miller. He said the talks were “quite positive and very constructive” but offered no details.

Gazprom characterized the meet-
ing as van der Veer’s making a “se-
ties of offers concerning Sakhalin 2.”

Gazprom and Shell have been in talks since July 2005 over the sale of a stake worth 25 percent plus one share of Sakhalin 2. But talks stalled after Shell doubled its cost estimates for Sakhalin 2 to $20 billion, citing higher prices for steel and an appre-
ciation of the ruble.
Opinion

From the Editor

The Friday, Dec. 1 arts review of the Musical Theater Guild’s production of “Children of Eden,” entitled “‘Children of Eden’ is Sinfully Good,” did not disclose the author’s involvement with MTG. Though the author, Bill Andrews, who also The Tech’s Campus Life editor, was not involved in the production of “Children of Eden,” he has recently performed in the cast and orchestra of other MTG shows and has become the group’s publicity director since writing the review. The author was not fully aware of The Tech’s policy that prohibits reviewers from covering any performances of groups in which they are involved.

Had editors been aware of his involvement, the review would not have been published. Andrews will not write reviews of theater or band campus groups, since he is involved in both activities. In the future, arts writers will also complete a form asking them to list their extracurricular involvement and will be told explicitly about the policy.

Maire Y. Thibault
Editor in Chief

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairperson Zachary Ozer, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli.

Letters 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 and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 597029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter 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 commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. 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. 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.
Remember the Beavers

Thomas Hay

When I went home over Thanksgiving Break, my high school friends and I had the inevitable conversation about the positive and negative qualities of our respective schools. My friend who goes to Duke brought up how great the school was because of the basketball team. He then said, “it must suck that MIT has no good sports teams to root for.” Where does this assumption come from? Just because we go to a school renowned for the academic prowess of its students, people should not automatically assume that MIT athletics are a joke. The problem is that many students, in addition to outsiders, hold this assumption as well. For those of you without faith in MIT sports, let me enlighten you. They aren’t just competitive, they are among the best in the nation! We need to get out and support them. Just a few weeks ago, I was standing in Rockwell Cage, black and silver paint covering my body, while screaming myself hoarse in support of our woman’s volleyball team. They made it all the way to the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA Division III Volleyball tournament. Each day of their tournament run, more and more students crowded into Rockwell Cage to cheer for the team. By their final game, the stands were packed and the atmosphere was reminiscent of a Division I basketball game. The roar of the crowd was deafening every time MIT scored a point. Students were running around with painted faces and bodies, going absolutely nuts. It was awesome.

More of our sports deserve this same atmosphere. At men’s hockey games there is a dedicated cheering section that is loud, rowdy, and makes the game more fun to watch with its cheers and on-going commentary. There should be a cheering section like this at as many games as possible. Anyone who plays a sport will tell you what a difference it makes to have people cheering for you. There are plenty of other teams who are having great seasons that need our support. Did you know that the MIT pistol team beat the U.S. Military Academy? The U.S. Military Academy! If that is not impressive, I don’t know what is. As for the teams that aren’t doing so well, we need to support them as well. Home field advantage is only an advantage when your fans outnumber those of the opponent. There should never be a home game where our opponent has more fans than we do. Fans help motivate a team to work harder, to dig deeper, and to never give up.

During the MIT-Tulans basketball game last Saturday the crowd got involved in double overtime. The game went for 2 hours with a satisfied gulp, no matter what. Did you know that the MIT pistol team beat the U.S. Military Academy? Painted faces and bodies. Students were running around with painted faces and bodies, going absolutely nuts. It was awesome. Yes, we, the students of 2010, were born a few years after you. What does that give you any reason to worry about; you’re on pass/no record.”

Grant,d this fact or does take quite a lead off our high school weary shoulders, but we don’t yet have a college back bone. And we still need to pass. Of us have never taken physics or math, and this semester gives us time to get up to speed. Stop telling us that MIT’s academic track was established so that a couple of failed introductory classes can’t hurt our chances of getting out in four years. We don’t plan to fail, and don’t want to hear it. We’re overhearers, just like you. Give us a second (or a semester) to adjust to mediocrity, please. And don’t tell me you’ve erased all memory of the struggles of figuring out college life, or even harder, MIT life. Problem sets swallow hours, with a satisfied gulp, no matter what. grade you may or may not get on them. Remember what it felt like to have to ignore all social experiences in order to study, or how it felt when you cumulated to the temptations. What about the plethora of extracurricular opportunities available to you? Were you able to narrow down and focus your choices without making any personal mistakes or sacrifices?

No matter how careful you are, it’s near impossible to have MIT all figured out from day one. There is a lot more to college than getting good grades, and pass/no record allows freshmen to realize that. What happens in the following years to make you forget? We are your fellow students. We too are paying thousands of dollars to walk down the Infinite. It would be nice if we could be treated as if you believed that. Maybe with the approach of the holiday season and the end of term, more upperclassmen will stop rubbing in how academically superior they are to the supposedly meek little freshmen either from holiday spirit, guilt, or realization of intellectual equality. Out of the goodness of my heart, I will grant that not all students older than freshmen behave in this manner, that should be understood. There is enough of a negative vibe, however, between the big kids and little kids, that the issue needs to be addressed. This mild form of hazing is really unnecessary. All we ask is that the condescension and one-upmanship end as soon as possible. When we can see the big scary upperclassmen, we’ll remember how it felt to be on the bottom rung and act accordingly.

Katherine Silverstein is a member of the Class of 2010.

A Freshman’s Lament

Katherine Silverstein

The time I’m looked down upon for being on pass/no record, I think I might scream. Yes, we, the students of 2010, were born a few years ago. We still talk about proms and GPAs. We still talk to our old high school friends. We’re new to this whole college thing. That does not give you any reason to make a mockery of our fledgling endeavors.” “You have nothing to worry about; you’re on pass/no record.”

Granted, this fact or does take quite a load off our high school weary shoulders, but we don’t yet have a college back bone. And we still need to pass. Of us have never taken physics or math, and this semester gives us time to get up to speed. Stop telling us that MIT’s academic track was established so that a couple of faded introductory classes can’t hurt our chances of getting out in four years. We don’t plan to fail, and don’t want to hear it. We’re overhearers, just like you. Give us a second (or a semester) to adjust to mediocrity, please. And don’t tell me you’ve erased all memory of the struggles of figuring out college life, or even harder, MIT life. Problem sets swallow hours, with a satisfied gulp, no matter what. grade you may or may not get on them. Remember what it felt like to have to ignore all social experiences in order to study, or how it felt when you cumulated to the temptations. What about the plethora of extracurricular opportunities available to you? Were you able to narrow down and focus your choices without making any personal mistakes or sacrifices?

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Did you know that the MIT pistol team beat the U.S. Military Academy? The U.S. Military Academy! If that is not impressive, I don’t know what is.

One of the last places left where face and body paint are cool.

So direct your web browser to http://mitathletics.cstv.com, look for a sport that interests you, find the date and time of a home game, and then go! The only way that we can show all the doubters that smart kids can be athletes is to support MIT athletics and help our teams win championships.

Thomas Hay is a member of the Class of 2010.

Good luck on finals and have a great break!
CONCERT REVIEW

Resonance on a Plane
A Cappella Group Shakes Its Way Through Resonance Full Concert

By Jillian Berry

Resonance Full Concert
Friday, Dec. 8, 2006
Room 16-250

U

Friday night, MIT’s co-ed a cappella group, Resonance, brought a good dose of music and humor to the normally class-filled 16-250. With the theme of “Snakes on a Plane” running throughout the show, Resonance combined singing with skits for a very enjoyable two hours. The all male Doo Wop Shop from UMass Amherst opened the show with Incubus’ “Summer Romance (Anti-Gravity Love Songs).” After performing Billy Joel’s “She’s Got A Way,” the members of the group re- moved their matching cowboy hats to sing Gary Jules’ version of “Mad World.” The group returned with Sarah E. Dupuis ’10 who is also an associate arts editor for The Tech singing “So Little Notice,” a song she penned. Her unique, resonating voice was intense as she sang about love. For the next song, Schmidt, still in his Samuel L. Jackson costume, sang Billy Joel’s “River of Dreams.” While he hit the high notes, I think he missed a verse at the beginning of the song. In addition, he walked back and forth across the stage throughout the song, never really looking at the audience. After these two songs came another skit, somewhat more awkward than the previous one. It begins with an argument between a guy and a girl in which the girl kicks the boy between the legs, and ends with a father physically beating his son while they played a game together. Amazingly, the most awkward portion of the skit came at the beginning since it almost seemed possible that the girl/boy pair was a real fight.

Fernandez’s performance was a display of effortless excellence that made this a last-long song; the standing ovation it received was well deserved.

Lush, the group was able to recover with an amazingly soulful rendition of Gnarls Barkley’s “Crazy” (Ting Ting Luo ’09), while the rest of the group danced to look like the ink blots moving in the video with great success. The only part of the song that was a bit confusing was towards the end; when they tried to make a “Crazy” medley as Anika K. McCree ’10 sang Britney Spears’ “Crazy” while Luo sang Barkley. McCree sang the whole song as Luo ended her piece, it might have worked better; as it was, the songs were just a little too jumbled to work together.

Next came another powerful piece as Koyel Bhattacharyya ’09 belted Christina Aguilera’s “Fighter.” After yet another skit (they were starting to get a bit old by this point), Joshua Nields ’07 performed “Mean It,” but I just can’t shake the feeling that covers of songs released in the past two years deserve to be performed exclusively in teen centers and local bars. Everyone’s got her own preference, but some of the sharp beats were lost in the arrangement. Fernandez put on a funny and enjoyable performance, and the audience was delighted throughout the show.

The Tech
December 12, 2006

No Matter Your Preference, New O.C. CD is Bad Choice
Terrible Rock Covers Make Me Want to Shatter the CD

By Sarah Dupuis

ing Our Tracks

Music From the O.C. Mix 6, Covering Our Tracks Produced by Alexandra Pattavina Warner Bros.

Everyone has her own preference. To-meat-o-to-tah-o? Ashlee or Jessica? Decaf or expresso? Winter or Spring? Questions and decisions like those plague everyday existence. But when faced with a choice between seventeenth English punk band The Sex Pistols and Lady Sovereign, a young white female rapper who also hails Britannia, I’d unfailingly select the former, and I suspect most rational humans with any sense would agree with me. Music From the O.C. Mix 6, Covering Our Tracks was apparently produced by irrational human beings. Bizarrely, one could have allowed Lady Sovereign to record such a hideous cover of the Sex Pistols’ “Pretty Vacant” and then put that same cover on a major label studio release. Irresponsibility is the only reason Fernandez was allowed to perform all of these terrible record releases together on one offeniously bad disc.

The new “album,” if that term is even applicable, consists of covers of past O.C. soundtrack singles. I generally respect the show’s playlist and so when I saw the new mix’s track order I was instantaneously hopeful for a new addition to my music library. In my years of making mix tapes, I’ve learned that well-done covers and recognizable songs can add personality to a playlist, but the key words are “well-done” and “recognizable.” Try an experiment: put together an entire collection of well-done covers of popular songs and see how much enjoyable experience this might be. I had to remind myself that they didn’t suck. Everyone has her own preference, but some of these performances are just plain wrong. You buying this record would be just plain wrong. You’ve been warned.

Tally Hall does an acceptable cover of The Killers’ “Smile Like You Mean It,” but I just can’t shake the feeling that covers of songs released in the past two years deserve to be performed exclusively in teen centers and local bars. Debasement...famous for inspiring Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” is covered on an attempt at grunge-inspiring. Bubbling. Bubbling. Bubbling.


“Are these the happiest versions of some songs?” asked the keyboardist to the audience. “Yes,” replied Tally Hall. Everyone loves covers, and this show was no exception. However, the bad covers outnumbered the good.

Ron Ron Chong ’07 sings “Army,” originally performed by Ben Folds, with the boys at their fall concert on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 3. (Photo by Tali Hall)

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http://www.royalbengalrestaurant.com

December 12, 2006

ARTS
The MIT Symphony Orchestra performed a concert this past Friday, Dec. 8, featuring works by all Russian composers. The concert began with “Night on Bald Mountain” by Modest Mussorgsky, continued with “Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a” by Dmitri Shostakovich, and concluded with Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s “Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op. 64.” The audience responded with an extended standing ovation after the finale.

(clockwise from above)

Violinists play in unison as Tchaikovsky’s “Symphony No. 5” nears its conclusion.

Interim MITSO conductor Paul M. Bliss focuses on the violins while spiritedly conducting the Tchaikovsky piece.

Noel S. Lee ’08 (center) smiles as she, Rei Chiang ’09 (left) and Alexis Dale ’09 (right) reach the final moments of the concert.

Cai P. GoGwilt ’10, at the head of a row of cellos, contemplatively closes his eyes just before the start of “Symphony No. 5.”

Photography by Omari Stephens
PROOF OF FALSE

Since Christmas is approaching, we thought we’d make this comic less math-intensive and focus on spreading warmth and cheer and... wait, what are you doing?

12 days until Christmas
There are 5 groups of order 12:
C_3, C_6, C_4, C_2, Z_12, and C_2 x C_4

11 days until Christmas
The only group of order 11 is the cyclic group C_11

10 days until Christmas
There are 2 groups of order 10:
C_5 and C_2

There are 2 groups of order 10 but no 2-groups of order 12.

Where's the joke in this comic?

THE ADVENTURES OF MAN

I'm not afraid of you, Nature. I have science to protect me!

HA! Your precious science can't save you from a bear attack!

Lasers can melt bears!

A Secret Message from God:

BIG CLOCK, small hands

By Ali Ghajarnia & Nancy Hua

Look, mom, snow!

It's a Christmas miracle!

Look, dad, snow!

Looks like we'll have to sleep standing up again.

Crossword

Solution page 12
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 12.
I hope that people are getting information from their senators, and if not, that's something that we... can definitely improve on.  – Steven M. Kelch '08

There's a small amount left over for Appeals, in case a student group is overstocked or realizes last minute that they need something they didn't get.

There's all the money usually allocated.

SK: All of the money is allocated, in fact, we have a certain percentage of over-allocation. The student groups don't always spend everything they've given and so that's factored in. Finboard actually... gives away more money than it has, but based on past trends, we've never in the hole coming out of it. There's always some roll over.

TT: Where does the money come from?

SK: The money comes from various places. Most of it comes from the Student Life Fee, which is another issue that we're looking at right now. We've actually passed a resolution asking for greater transparency for the Student Life Fee. This was an initiative started by Andrew [T.] Lukmann '07, the UA president, that the Senate approved. What we're asking for is a little more control over that. The Student Life Fee is broken down into two different areas. Some of it, actually most of it, goes to the [Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation], to run the Z Center and the athletic facilities... What's left over sort of gets split between the Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Senate.

TT: We'd heard there were some changes to Finboard this year, tell us...

SK: There were a couple of small policy changes, they were sort of in place already and we just formalized them to make sure that they were published and to make sure students understood these. For instance, we can't fund food for meetings because it's very costly and there's just not enough money to go around... We can't fund direct charity contributions... and can't take money from students and give it to charities, specifically. Small policy issues like that we wanted to make sure were clear and the Finboard chair especially wanted to make sure was on record.

TT: If there's anything there the Senate could improve on?

SK: Well, there's always something that we can improve on, and if anybody has ideas on what we could improve on, we would encourage them to come to us... I hope that people are getting information from their senators, and if not, that's something that we need to know and that we can definitely improve on.

TT: Is there anything that you'd like to say to students?

SK: Sure. I'd like to say that the Senate is here as a discussion forum for any issues that the students feel are important... We can go out there and look for issues, but it's best of you bring them to us. That way, we know that there are people who are interested about it. And don't be shy about showing up for meetings, we've got room. We're always willing to entertain people who want to speak. For instance, on the Cultural House issue, unfortunately, at the meeting where that issue first brought up, we were so heavy into the Sudan discussion that [the discussion] sort of got put on hold. And some people were trying to speak about the theme houses and didn't quite have the chance to talk. I would really like them to come back... and anybody else who has any thoughts and cares about this issue, please speak up there...}

Julie B. Norman, director of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programs, speaks in the Undergraduate Association’s question-and-answer session yesterday evening in W20-400.
Executive Committee

Construct a new Web site with interactive features (notes, polls, and forums) to help the UA better support student opinion.

Create a new laboratory in the basement of the MIT Museum to allow students to interact with historic MIT artifacts.

Create a new liaison page for future Finboard members has been added. Members can have access to information about the committee.

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Committee on Athletics

Promote, staff, and administer the new Undergraduate Mentorship Program. The committee is getting feedback from the mentor pairs and is handling problems that arise.

Perform annual post-Orientation feedback sessions to identify the best and worst elements of the Orientation process.

Investigate and report on MIT’s ecology of use and outcomes for community and research use.

Work to make the average MIT undergraduate a more aware, compassionate, and well-rounded citizen.

Committee on Campus Sustainability

Work with Campus Planning to promote a student survey to help fill the remaining stories in the Hub and other spaces.

Perform an annual post-Orientation feedback session to identify the best and worst elements of the Orientation process.

Create a proposal for a built environment which generates energy, processes waste, and provides a better living environment at MIT.

Committee on Education Policy

Create a “Guide to Academic Policy at MIT” for incoming freshmen.

Continue to work with the student body on the future of the Student Center game room and proposals that have been made.

Create a new liaison page for future Finboard members has been added. Members can have access to information about the committee.

Committee on Housing

Work with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Academic Programming and Student Services to continue planning committees to better serve undergraduate student activities during their free time.

Work with the UA-supported Tuesday Night State Center “T-Party” to make it a recurring event, for example, with live music and other activities.

Work to make the UA-supported Tuesday Night State Center “T-Party” a recurring event, for example, with live music and other activities.

Committee on Orientation

Investigate the practicability of returning full telephone service to dormitories. The Input-A-Palooza survey asked for undergraduates to weigh in on the importance of this issue, and the committee will work to implement their recommendations.

Investigate and report on MIT’s ecology of use and outcomes for community and research use.

Committee on Student Life

Committee on Student Space Planning

Improve communications between groups and liaisons (including regular Faculty Board Office hours)

Committee on Student Space Planning

Provide a major institutional mentoring program by matching mentor pairs with underclassmen.

Finance Board

Nominations Committee

Improve communication with advocates so that, if there is a problem, the committee is accessible.

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bridge Fire Department. Durand could not disclose if anything was known to be wrong with the transformer prior to the explosion. Liability, if any, will be determined by the investigation.

According to a press release receive yesterday from State Fire Services, the investigation team is also examining why so much smoke entered the stairwells, making evacuation difficult. The release indicates that fire code compliance officers have identified where the smoke entered the fresh air duct.

The extent of the damage to the building, which was built in 1970 and acquired by MIT in 1999, is still being assessed. To comply with code, mechanical and life safety engineers must design and implement corrective measures before the building can be re-occupied. The cost of the measures is still unknown.

Lt. Michael Assad of the MIT Police recalled a well-organized evacuation. “The entire community came together,” Lt. Assad said “The Marriott, even though it’s a big corporation, was one of the first to come to MIT’s aid” referring to the emergency medical triage that was set up in the Cambridge Marriott Hotel in Kendall Square.

Cambridge Police, MIT Medical Services, MIT-Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Corps, and MIT Environment, Health, and Safety also helped at the scene. Meanwhile, the Boston Fire Department responded to a call about a chemical odor in Bldg. 38 that turned out to be a false alarm due to strong-smelling floor wax.

OCW Facilities Coordinator Mary E. Westlund commented that there will most likely be a “small delay” in uploading the new OCW material this April. However, she did not think that there would be any major setbacks in the OCW project because of the fire. She mentioned that most of the servers are located elsewhere and that the MIT community has been supportive.

“People have been so generous,” Westlund said. “We’ve been offered space all over campus.”

**Cause of Excessive Smoke Not Yet Found**

Kendall fire, from Page 1

**Solution to Crossword**

from page 8

**Solution to Sudoku**

from page 9
A new residential tower could rise 30 stories over the Back Bay. A sprawling complex would buzz with hundreds of scientists in Allston, and a sleek glass-and-limestone business school would fill out the banks of the Charles.

These projects — at Berklee College of Music, Harvard University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology — are among about two dozen new buildings on the drawing board at universities and colleges in the Boston area.

In the next decade, construction on eight college and university campuses will create thousands of jobs and alter the Boston landscape. The plans — some recently unveiled, others under construction — call for building more than 5 million square feet, according to a Globe tally of available figures from the schools. They would cost well over $1.3 billion, a price tag that does not include Harvard's or Boston College's proposals because they would not provide cost estimates.

"Things are changing in our city, and I think changing for the good," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Universities "are bringing new energy to this city. The possibilities for development are just untold, you can't even imagine what they are going to be."

Boston-area colleges large and small are taking advantage of their wealth, their rising national reputations, and their expanding research programs to undertake historic levels of growth.

They have also been pushed by the city of Boston to house more students on campus and are driven by market forces to improve amenities for students and expand research facilities.

New residence halls would house an additional 6,000 students.

But the university building boom, while alleviating town-gown tension in some areas, has increased it in others. Some residents worry that high-rise dorms could erode the character of their neighborhoods, and others oppose more development because they say tax-exempt universities already place too much of a burden on the city's budget.

Boston has not seen such a rash of university development since at least the 1960s, said Richard M. Freeland, former president of Northeastern and a historian of higher education. Today, he said, local colleges are thriving to the point that they can finance hundreds of millions of dollars for construction.

BC and MIT are each working on major campus upgrades with at least four new buildings on existing land, for a variety of purposes including housing and research. Harvard is beginning what promises to be a decades-long expansion into Allston, with a focus on science, professional schools, and cultural spaces. Northeastern, Suffolk University, Boston University, Emerson College, and Berklee are building or planning to build new dormitories.

For the most part, they are adding space to house more students on campus, rather than to expand enrollment.

Civic leaders say that while higher education has long been one of Boston's strongest economic sectors, it has become all the more crucial as Boston has lost much of its status as a major corporate headquarters. Gillette, FleetBoston, and John Hancock were bought by out-of-town corporations.

In 2002, the city's major research universities employed 50,750 people, a study found.

Applications are due by February 1, 2007. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents presently attending a four-year college or university in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territory. Applicants should also be sophomores, juniors, or seniors. For further information on eligibility requirements and to access the online application, visit mit.edu/urop/amgenscholars. The Amgen-UROP Scholars Program is managed by the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming (UAAP), and is funded by a grant provided by the Amgen Foundation.

For more information, contact UAAP staff at urop@mit.edu, or (617) 253-7306. For details on Amgen Scholars Programs offered at other U.S. universities, visit http://www.amgenscholars.com.
Celebrate the end of classes and the coming of Christ at Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, Dec. 13
5:15pm
MIT Chapel

Caroling in Lobby 7 ~ 6:30 pm
And dinner in W11 ~ 7:15 pm

Sponsored by LEM
http://web.mit.edu/lem

Chanukah at MIT

FYSH Dreidel Making
8:00pm Student Center FDR H1
Join the First Year Students of Hillel for some Dreidel making arts & crafts fun. Creative new ways to make dreidels, including making a 2 foot tall dreidel! For more information, contact Jordyn Rozensky, Jordynr@mit.edu.

Chanukah Sale
10:00am-3:00pm, Student Center
Hillel will be selling Chanukah candles, menorahs, gelt and more in the Student Center. Look for the table with the 2-foot dreidel and stock up on all of your Chanukah needs!

LatkeFest 2006: Chanukah Party!
7:00pm-9:15pm Student Center, West Lounge
On December 13th, 9 contestants (to represent the menorah candles) vie for the title of CHAMPION by eating the most latkes in 8 minutes. Will it be you? Submit your champion title (i.e. Purple Potato Eater, Latke Monster, etc) and a short explanation as to why you are the champion latke eater by Dec 8th. A small committee will review submissions and announce On Dec 10th who will be competing in our First Annual LatkeFest Feast. MIT's first Champion: it could be you! Submissions to jenna@mit.edu

Test Tube Menorah Lighting Ceremony
3:00pm, W11
Join the Jewish Community at MIT for the lighting of our first Chanukah Candle on our custom MIT Test Tube Menorah. Join your friends for Chanukah songs!

Chanukah Study Break in a Dorm Near You!
Light a candle, spin a dreidel and eat some nosh during one of our many dorm study breaks. Look for emails with times and specific locations!
Sunday December 17th in Reseyer and Baker
Monday December 18th in East Campus
Tuesday December 19th in Next House

Funds For Graduate Student Life Projects Will Be Distributed

GS0, from Page 1

IAP, "Science Policy Bootcamp," introduces graduate students to the basics of science policy through a series of lectures by William B. Bonvillian, director of the MIT Washington Office, MIT's lobbyist presence on Capitol Hill. Proposals are generally funded for one to two years. However, outstanding ones that "become a part of graduate student life" are usually budgeted out separately at the beginning of the year, said Barrie Gleason, chair of the Graduate Student Life Grant Selection Panel.

The new Graduate Student Life Fund was created to promote graduate student community through donations solicited from alumni, according to the GS0 Web site. Although the fund has not received notably large donations, Gleason said the GS0 was impressed by the number of alumni making small donations.

The main criterion for selecting Student Life Projects, Gleason said, is "whether or not the idea enhances the graduate student community." Student Life Grant proposals are selected by a panel of five MIT graduate students and five MIT staff members.

Graduate Student Life Grants were created by Dean for Graduate Students Steven M. Cohnberg in 2002, when $200,000 was allotted to the GS0 to promote Graduate Student Life.

Students Cause Ire in Local Neighborhoods

Boston, from Page 1

my steps, and this is when I'm sitting out to take my kids to school. That's not for families. I love that we have some students but I think there is a tipping point."

On Beacon Hill and in the West End, the number of Suffolk University and Northeastern University students increased from 344 in 2005 to 635 this year, according to a student housing census the Boston Redevelopment Authority began last year. Similarly, a short time ago, Mission Hill was believed to have very few students, but this year has 1,446, according to the census.

Councilor Michael P. Ross, whose district includes Mission Hill, said tensions in the neighborhood have grown. Ten years ago, Ross said, the area was not popular with students. Now many crowd into single apartments, and permanent residents have increasingly complained.

Ross spearheaded the drive for a census with the 2004 University Accountability Ordinance requiring colleges to list where their off-campus students are living.

"Clearly we can see where neighborhoods could have too many students, but then you can see neighborhoods where there's a really healthy number of students," Ross said. "I'd argue between 10 and 20 percent is a great number. A working-class family, a student, a lifelong resident. That's a healthy diversity I think."

According to the census, the number of off-campus students in the South End rose from 1,473 last fall to 1,582 this year. Jamaica Plain had 1,202 students this fall, up from 1,127 at the same time in 2005.

Officials caution that two years of data is not enough to show definitive trends. But the numbers in some cases have been surprising and provided a new sense of urgency at City Hall to confront the issue.

"It's giving some evidence to what some neighborhood residents, like those in Mission Hill, are saying about the fact that they have a lot of students," said Linda Kowalcky, a Boston Redevelopment Authority official, who tabulated recent numbers.

Erik D. Fogg '09 sands down the edges of a wooden toy train on Saturday, Dec. 9. Phi Delta Theta made 450 wooden trains, helicopters, and cars to be donated to local children's hospitals and local community centers.
In 2007, MIT Continues Process

Early Action, Class of 2011

- Total students applied Early Action: 3,493
- No. of students admitted: 390
- No. of students deferred: 2,784
- No. of students denied: 319
- Male students admitted: 212
- Female students admitted: 178
- States represented among EA admits: 44
- Foreign countries represented among EA admits: 7
- High schools represented among EA admits: 322

* The foreign countries noted are countries of residency, not citizenship. International admissions, for students who are not United States citizens or permanent residents, will be conducted during regular action admissions.

Early action, from Page 1

you discovered value in the negative.”

Last year’s question stated, “Life brings many disappointments as well as satisfactions. Tell us about a time in your life when you experienced disappointment, or faced difficult or trying circumstances. How did you react?”

“It is so painful to turn down so many extraordinary students because we just don’t have the space,” said Jonas. “We’re in the remarkable position of attracting so many of the nation’s most extraordinary students and we wish we could take many more.”

While many other top schools such as Harvard and Princeton decided to get rid of early admissions after this application cycle, MIT has no intention to do so.

“MIT early action is very open and fair. It is non-restricting, non-binding, and non-preferential,” said Stuart Schmill, director of Education Policy + Resource Center.

Schmill said that other schools’ elimination of early action stem from the recognition that students can only apply to that particular school early, binding meaning that students have to matriculate into the college if they are accepted early, and preferential nature meaning there is an advantage to applying early of their early admissions. This advantage for those who apply early puts lower-income students, who may not have as much guidance and preparation to strategize and get their test scores, materials, and application in so early, at a disadvantage: “MIT’s early admission is beneficial in many ways,” said Schmill, in that it allows students who definitely know that MIT is their top choice to get the stress of admissions out of the way as soon as possible. It offers no advantage to those who apply early, thus not putting regular action applicants and low-income students at any disadvantage, Schmill added.

Early admissions is a process that was started forty years ago which allowed students to apply to their top choice colleges early and allowed colleges to spread their workload out. Early decision, which requires students to attend the college they are accepted into early, arose from the competition between colleges and the desire to start locking students into a college decision.

Popularity of Colleges Increases With Tuition

By Jonathan D. Glater and Alan Finder

John Straussberger, the president of Ursinus College, a small liberal arts institution here in the eastern Pennsylvania countryside, vividly remembers the day that the chairman of the board of trustees told him the college was losing applicants because of its tuition.

It was too low.

So early in 2000 the board voted to raise tuition and fees 17.6 percent, to $23,640 (and to include a laptop for every incoming student to help soften the shock), said Amy Gutmann, president of the University of Pennsylvania.

“It’s bizarre and it’s embarrassing,” said Schmill, in that it allows students who definitely know that MIT is their top choice to get the stress of admissions out of the way as soon as possible. It offers no advantage to those who apply early, thus not putting regular action applicants and low-income students at any disadvantage, Schmill added.

Early admissions is a process that was started forty years ago which allowed students to apply to their top choice colleges early and allowed colleges to spread their workload out. Early decision, which requires students to attend the college they are accepted into early, arose from the competition between colleges and the desire to start locking students into a college decision.

Dean Kamien (left), inventor of the Segway, talks with Professor Woodie C. Flowers ’73 after the final presentations of prototype products for 2,005 (Product Design Processes). Seven groups presented various products aimed at increasing the quality of life for the disabled.
By Ryan Lanphere

The MIT men’s basketball team (4-5) fell 79-47 to the No. 2 ranked Amherst College (6-0) on Thursday night in Rockwell Cage. The Jeffs’ deep bench and precision perimeter shooting proved to be too much for the Engineers to overcome.

With 47 of the Jeffs’ 79 points coming off the bench, the Engineers were unable to match the Jeffs’ extremely productive second unit, and couldn’t stay within striking distance in the second half.

Assistant Coach Oliver W. Eslinger said, “I was really proud of our effort in the first half, when we were able to run our offense and play tight with them.” The Engineers indeed looked strongest when they were able to keep the pace of the game slow, preventing the Jeffs from running and making use of their plethora of subs.

MIT started the game strong, as the Engineers matched the Jeffs point for point with the score tied 10-10 through the first ten minutes of play. Then, the Jeffs began to pull away, helped in part by junior guard Andrew Olson who was lights out in the first half, going three for three behind the arc, and finished the game with 12 points, four assists, and two steals.

The Engineers went to the locker room trailing 20-33 after the first half of play. The break didn’t help, as the Jeffs came out hot in the second half, shooting 6-of-10 from three-point range while holding off the Engineers.

Guard James M. Bartolotta ’09 carried the Engineers in the first half with 10 points and eight rebounds, and finished the game leading all MIT scorers with 16 points, nine rebounds, two steals, and a blocked shot.

The Jeffs had an incredibly balanced attack. They scored 79 points as a team, but their leading scorer, Ryan Baskauskas, only had 13 points. Guard Tim McLaughlin and forward Fletcher Walters also contributed 12 points to join Baskauskas and Olson as double-digit scorers for the Jeffs.

The Engineers, who have been inconsistent all year, couldn’t find their shooting groove and made just 35 percent of their shots Thursday night. Forward Erich W. Bracht ’10 continued his breakout rookie season shooting five of six from the field for 14 points, and also pulled down nine boards. Point guard Bradley H. Gampel ’09 also contributed in MIT’s effort, dishing out seven assists to go with two steals.

The Engineers’ next contest will be at home, when they host Emerson College (5-3) tonight in Rockwell Cage; the tip-off is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.