MIT Cable Expands, 14 Channels Added
Networks Come as Surprise to Students
By Nick Semenovich

MIT Cable expanded to include 14 new basic cable channels, despite previous announcements that only three channels would be added. The new channels were added without removing C-Span 2, Bloomberg Television, or MIT Weather When You Want It, which were originally slated to be replaced.

The changes will be reflected in an additional $1.50 per month cost to housing, effective next term, according to Undergraduate Association Vice President Ruth Miller ’07 (also a Tech/Campus Life columnist).

The expansion was made possible with the termination of MIT’s subscription TV service. “We had a block of channels open up,” Miller said ’07. “We were originally going to replace three channels, but we got extra space from canceling the subscription TV service.” (See page 13 for a full listing for MIT’s new basic cable channels.)

The new subscription service, offered basic digital cable for $14 per month, with optional Pay-Per-View Events and premium channels. (Other cable channels.)

The expansion was made possible with the termination of MIT’s subscription TV service. “We had a block of channels open up,” Miller said ’07. “We were originally going to replace three channels, but we got extra space from canceling the subscription TV service.” (See page 13 for a full listing for MIT’s new basic cable channels.)

Student television, a cable channel, is comprised of the Undergraduate Association, Graduate Student Council, Dormitory Council, MIT Cable Television, and Housing.

“It’s just a remarkable project bringing together a lot of people from student government and the administration,” Winchester said. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen a group of students and administrators work together so closely and act so quickly.”

Following a survey in September of last year, Cable-storm selected Comedy Central, the Sci-Fi Channel, and the Discovery Channel to replace three existing channels, C-Span 2, Bloomberg Television, and MIT Weather When You Want It.

“The 14 new channels come with a little sense to continue the subscription service,” said Randall W. Win- chester, team leader of MIT Cable Television.

“We realized in November that the subscription service was no longer viable,” Winchester said. “In light of a proposed rate increase for this year, we chose to end the subscription service.”

The canceled service opened up channels 48-61, bringing in the long awaited Sci-Fi Channel and Comedy Central, among others.

Cable-storm had strongly advocated for changes to MIT Cable. The group formed in Spring 2006 and is comprised of the Undergraduate Association, Graduate Student Council, Dormitory Council, MIT Cable Television, and Housing.

By JiHye Kim

Mystery Hunt, Page 9

The ultimate goal of the hunt is to be the first team to recover the famous Mystery Hunt coin, which typically cannot be achieved until every puzzle has been solved. This year, the Dr. Awkward team recovered the coin on Sunday, Jan. 14 at 2:14 a.m. It is the team’s first win since 2000; according to Eric Berlin, one of approximately 45 members of the winning team.

The puzzle that secured the win for Dr. Awkward was a puzzle that involved manipulating the answers from other puzzles in the law and held during the Independent Activities Period. It attracted a wide range of people including current MIT students, alumni, and national puzzle champions, even those who are not a part of MIT.

The Panhel Alliance has selected Angela P. Wu ’08 as the vice president of recruitment for the coming year, filling the last Panhel Executive Board position after it was left open in the original vote in November. The biggest challenge facing the incoming executive board is the move to fall recruitment scheduled to take place this year. Recruitment has taken place in the spring since 2002.

The new Panhel executive board will assume duty in early February.

As the new president of Panhel, Annika S. Larsson ’08 says that her goals for the coming year include continuing improvement of relations between sororities and both alumni and faculty. She has suggested instituting a faculty-member advising program for each sorority, as a “way of getting professors involved and understanding what chapters do for campus.”

Larsson also says that “keeping up a good relationship” with the Interfraternity Council is important for the coming year, especially with the move to fall recruitment.

Tonight: Clear and cold, 8°F (-13°C)

Today: Sunny, blustery, 19°F (-7°C)

The Weather
Today: Sunny, blustery, 8°F (-13°C) Tonight: Clear and cold, 1°F (-17°C)

Tomorrow: Cloudy, breezy, 32°F (0°C)

Details, Page 2

William H. Orme-Johnson

MIT Professor Emeritus of Chemistry William H. Orme-Johnson, heralded for his four decades of contributions in the field of bioinorganic chemistry, died Jan. 1 after a long illness. He was 68.

“Bill (called by all, O.J.) was a giant in the field of bioinorganic chemistry,” said JoAnne Stubbe, Novartis Professor of Chemistry and professor of biology. “Contributions that his lab made in the mid ’70s set the stage for many of the experiments carried out by the bio-inorganic community today.”

A native of El Paso, Texas, Orme-Johnson received his BS and PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He was a member of the biochemistry faculty at the University of Wisconsin at Madison for 15 years. In 1989, Orme-Johnson joined the MIT faculty in the then relatively new research area of biochemical chemistry; he was an MIT professor of chemistry for the next 18 years. Much lauded for his research, Orme-

Orme-Johnson, Page 10
UN Says Aids Effort For Children Falls Far Short
By Lawrence K. Altman

Some countries are making progress in treating children with AIDS and preventing others from becoming infected, but the overall global response is "tangentially insufficient," UNICEF said Tuesday.

"We are all affected by this virus, which is more prevalent and is taken more seriously in global, regional and national forums where they had received little consideration before," the UN's children's agency said in a report. Better testing to find children with HIV, the AIDS virus, and simpler formulations of the antiretroviral drugs that combat the infection, are needed in the number of children under treatment, UNICEF said. Additional factors were lower prices for the drugs and improved skills among health workers.

But the overall picture for children is grim, UNICEF found. It took stock of changes in 2005 and 2006, when the agency began a program to put what it called the "missing face" of children at the center of the world's effort to halt and reverse the spread of the AIDS virus by 2015.

Private Israelis and Syrians Write Plan in Secret to Return Golani
By Greg Myre

Prime ministers from Israel and Syria drafted a document in secret, unofficial talks that calls for returning the Golan Heights to Syria and offers a possible outline for peace negotiations, one of the participants said Tuesday.

However, the Israeli and Syrian governments dismissed the document, which was first described Tuesday in the Israeli daily Haaretz. They said they were not involved in the talks, which included sessions from September 2004 to July 2006 at undisclosed sites in Europe.

"No talks were ever in the works as far as I know," said Shlomo Ben-Ami, a former foreign minister and a member of the peace process.

Israel and Syria last held formal peace talks in 2000, when they appeared close to a deal to return most or all of the Golan Heights to Syria. But the negotiations broke down and the two countries routinely trade recriminations.

Massachusetts Likely To Freeze Tax Exemption
By Andrea Estes Globe Staff

For the first time in four years, Massachusetts taxpayers will not receive a higher personal tax exemption in 2008 under current projections, a sign of a slowing economy that could force difficult decisions on Beacon Hill this spring.

Department of Revenue officials announced at a legislative hearing Tuesday that a freeze in the personal income tax exemption was likely. At the hearing, several economists predicted minimal growth in 2008.

"We're assuming it's not likely the exemption will kick in," said Revenue Department spokeswoman Jennifer Parent.

UN Reports That Iraq Death Toll Topped 34,000 in 2006
By Sabrina Tavernise

The United Nations reported Tuesday that more than 34,000 Iraqis were killed in violence last year, a figure that represents the first comprehensive annual count of civilian deaths and a vivid measure of the failure of the Iraqi government and American military to provide security.

The report was the first attempt at hand-counting individual deaths for an entire year. It was compiled using reports from morgues, hospitals and municipal authorities across Iraq, and was nearly three times higher than an estimate for 2006 compiled from Iraqi ministry tallies by The Associated Press earlier this month.

Numbers of civilian deaths have become the central indicator for the trajectory of the war and are extremely sensitive for both Iraqis and Americans officials. Both follow the tallies, but neither will release them.

An Iraqi government spokesman called the count exaggerated and said that it had been obtained using "incorrect sources." Though the government closely tracks deaths through the Interior and Health ministries, he said it did not have a system in place for compiling a comprehen- sive figure.

Despite the criticism from the Iraqi government, the United Na- tions said it used all official sources, most of which relied on counts of death certificates. The vast majority of Iraqi deaths are reported, at least to local authorities, so that Iraqis can prove inheritance and receive gov- ernment compensation. Some deaths still go unreported, however, and the U.N. tally may in fact be lower than the true number of deaths nation- wide.

As death tolls have risen, the lack of security has become the single most important barrier to success of the American enterprise here. The numbers of dead, at least at the Baghdad morgue, are running at double their number in 2005.

Underscoring the challenge, even as the United Nations released its figure — 34,452 deaths in all — at least 70 more Iraqis were killed on Tuesday when a series of bomb blasts struck a largely Shiite university in northeast Baghdad.

Violence between Sunnis and Shiites, virtually unheard of in the early years of the war, has become the all-consuming driver of the con- flict here.

Military commanders have ac- knowledged that they underestimat- ed the seriousness of the sectarian killings, which took off across the capital after the bombing of a Shiite shrine in Samarra drove Shiites into the streets before that, Sunni militias did most of the killing. Now, the two groups fight bitterly over terri- tory.

In the shootings, bodies surface days later in sewers and garbage dumps. The report said that most unidentified bodies were found in six neighborhoods of Baghdad; three Sunnis — Dora, Bashiriyah and Ad- hamiyah — and three Shiite — Sadr City, New Baghdad and the hard- to-reach slum of Shu'uil.

"It's important to identify the root cause of the violence," said Gianni Magazzini, chief of the U.N. As- sistance Mission to Iraq's Human Rights Office, which compiled the report. "Lack of accountability for crimes generates the urge for justice through armed groups."

Iraq Hangings Fuel Sunni-Shiite Sectarianism in the Middle East
By Michael Slackman

The botched hanging of Saddam Hussein and two lieutenants in Iraq by its Shiite-led government has helped to accelerate Sunni-Shiite sectarian- ism across an already fragile Middle East, according to a report. The report calls for a higher personal tax exemption in 2008 under current projec- tions, a sign of a slowing economy that could force difficult decisions on Beacon Hill this spring.

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Jury Selection Begins in Trial of Cheney’s Former Chief Aide

By C.J. Chivers

Washington

The perjury trial of I. Lewis Libby Jr. began Tuesday with lawyers trying to eliminate as jurors anyone who might have strongly negative feelings about the Bush administration in general and Vice President Dick Cheney in particular.

Libby, who was the vice president’s chief of staff, is facing five felony counts charging that he lied to FBI agents and to a grand jury investigating who leaked the name of a CIA operative and why. Judge Reggie M. Walton, who is presiding over the case in U.S. District Court, has said he hopes to have the jury in place for opening statements on Monday.

The first day of jury selection on Tuesday went slowly, with only nine potential jurors interviewed. Two of them were excused by Walton after they made it clear they were critic of the administration and Cheney.

One woman lasted barely 60 seconds on the witness stand before she was dismissed. She said “nothing that could be said here” would make her believe anything good about the administration. Another man, after about 15 minutes, acknowledged that his low regard for Cheney might figure into how he evaluates his testimony if it was in conflict with other witnesses.

Cheney is expected to be one of the star witnesses for the defense. Libby’s lawyers, Theodore V. Wells and William H. Jeffress Jr., also explored whether potential jurors were open to one of their main lines of argument: that if Libby gave incorrect answers to the FBI and the grand jury, it could have been a simple case of faulty memory.

They asked the potential jurors if they ever had the experience of believing something had happened only to learn later that they had remembered it incorrectly. They also asked if two people gave “different accounts of a conversation they had,” did that necessarily mean one of the participants was lying.

After the name of the CIA officer, Valerie Wilson — who was known by her maiden name, Valerie Plame — appeared in a column by Robert D. Novak in July 2003, Patrick J. Fitzgerald was named as a special prosecutor to investigate the leak.

Russia Warns Citizens Of Possible Security Threat

By C.J. Chivers

Washington

Russian intelligence officials placed the country on an unusual high alert on Tuesday night, appealing to citizens for vigilance and saying that the government had been informed by “foreign partners” of a possible terrorist act.

The warning was at once detailed and vague. Issued at the end of a 9 p.m. national news broadcast, it said that the National Anti-Terrorist Committee was checking information about a possible attack on public ground transportation or subway systems, but it did not specify in what city an attack was feared, or when.

It also did not identify the “foreign partners” who had provided the information.

The National Anti-Terrorist Committee is led by Nikolai P. Patrushev, the director of the Federal Security Service, or FSB, Russia’s domestic successor to the KGB.

The broadcast said Patrushev had ordered “anti-terrorist forces and resources to a state of increased readiness and to carry out preventive measures.”

An unidentified anti-terrorist official also urged that “the population take this information seriously, raise their degree of vigilance, render necessary assistance to law enforcement structures and, in the event of coming across what appear to be suspicious signs, to notify security and law enforcement agencies immediately,” according to Interfax.

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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 Tech. 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 397029, Cambridge, MA 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W2-483. 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.

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BOOK REVIEW

Awkwardness, Absurdity, and Humor in ‘I Killed’
Up and Downs in Stories of Comedians on the Road

By Jillian Berry

'I Killed: True Stories of the Road from America’s Top Comedians' is a collection of more than 200 accounts that regale us with the horrors that a stand-up comedian can face on the road. From the foreword by Jerry Seinfeld, to the anecdotes of Larry David, Mike Myers, and Paul Reiser, this work includes some of the biggest names in comedy, and shows the long (and often scary) road each of them took to get where they are today.

When I first heard the premise of this book, I requested a copy. Immediately, I enjoyed a good stand-up comedian, and I thought the back stories of such comedians would be interesting and entertaining. But while the comedians are entertaining on the whole, there are some cringe-worthy sections, and some long clogging. Since each comedian account is about a page, by the hundredth page, the pieces started to become repetitive, and I started to wonder how I could get through the next hundred pages.

Many of the stories have one of two formats. The first format involves the comedian playing a club in the middle of nowhere before getting drunk and having a one-night stand that either makes the ridiculously low payment worthwhile, or goes terribly wrong in some way. The other (slightly more interesting) storyline is that of the comedian playing in some area where a bad show does not result in just boos, but in physical violence that threatens the comedian’s life in some ridiculously over-the-top manner.

In both cases, I usually felt more embarrassed for the comedian than entertained by the account. Furthermore, no matter what the tale, there was usually something about a heckler. While I appreciate that comedians despise hecklers, the rest of us do not want to hear about them over and over and over again. After about a dozen stories, I wanted to yell at the book, “All right, I get it, you don’t like hecklers. Now get over it and move on with your story.” The only thing that saved these stories was the comedic talent of the writers. Had the storytellers been any less talented, many of their stories would not only have been awkward, but on the edge of disturbing.

While many of the tales are formulaic and portray road comics as lost souls more sad than funny, some of the stories stood out, and there were enough to save the book from being 200 pages of pure awkwardness. In particular, Mike Myers’ account of his first time on the road had me laughing out loud. The story involves clothes he had been wearing for days, a car with one headlight, a lot of alcohol, and a pack of wolves in a hilarious mix of absurdity. This is one of those tales that is so unbelievable, it can only be true.

The book also has a handful of sections that contain five to ten very short accounts related to one theme, including the troubles of getting paid and bringing parents to shows. These are often very funny, and show an aspect of road comedy more completely than the longer accounts.

While I now understand how incredibly difficult it is to become a comedian, this book did not make me want to quit school to become a comedian. Playing your dues takes on a whole new meaning here, but I am not sure I really wanted to know all the details. Although more often than not, I was either not amused or worse yet, I felt uncomfortable reading this book, some of the accounts were laugh-out-loud funny (which is impressive for any written work) and rescued this book from being too much of a loss.

BOOK REVIEW

A Celestial Night

BSO Concert Features Planets, Asteroids, and a Star

By Tanya Goldhaber

The program of last Tuesday night’s Boston Symphony Orchestra concert featured two familiar favorites: Bruch’s Violin Concerto in G minor performed by Joshua Bell, and Holst’s The Planets. The first piece in the program, Corelli: Astorid for Orchestra by the contemporary composer Mark-Anthony Turnage, was less pleasant to listen to, but nonetheless conveyed a vivid image. Robert Spane was an effective guest conductor, although I didn’t agree with his interpretation at times.

Joshua Bell’s interpretations of standard repertoire have become more original as he has matured. In recent performances that I have heard, Bell had been drawn to flashy and speedy playing, which would not wholly suit the style of the Bruch Concerto. I was, however, very impressed with this performance of the Bruch, as it was musically as well as technically sound, although it featured a run of octaves at the end of the first movement that I found to be too much of a loss.

The Planets also had a few problems: the tempo was often too slow. While comedians such as the Bruch are often relaxed, I felt that in this performance, the Bruch would occasionally drag a bit, particularly in the first movement. The Planets has some very slow movements (Venus and Saturn, for example) but contrasting movements such as Jupiter should be lively and proceed at a good tempo. While the Jupiter movement did bring out a lot of musical intricacies, it was just not fast enough to convey the necessary energy.

The piece by Turnage was appropriate, given the celestial theme of the concert, but on the whole I did not find it to be a satisfying piece. According to Turnage, he was drawn to “the doomsday aspect of asteroids and the idea that the Earth could be destroyed by one any day.” While interesting, the musical representation of an asteroid colliding with the Earth, with its theme of destruction and chaos, is not necessarily something that I would necessarily like to listen to again.

I would strongly encourage anyone to go see Joshua Bell perform, and I also recommend seeing a live performance of The Planets at least once. However, should Asteroid for Orchestra come to town again, it would not be a terrible thing if you missed it.

January 17, 2007

THE TECH

Page 5

For more information, contact the Arts Department at 253-1902.

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MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED

SHEESH. THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE
OVERCOME IT A LITTLE? THERE’S
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LEFT
OF HER...

WE'RE NINJAS.
THE LESS VISIBLE
THE BETTER.
NOW... BACK TO
THE SHADOWS.

NOT SO FAST,
LADIES.

BEFORE Y'ALL
GO, I WANTED
TO THANK YOU
FOR KEEPING MY
SEAT WARM...

THE KING
OF THE COMIC
IS BACK FOR
HIS THRONE.

PROOF OF FALSE

by Andrew Spann

How to Succeed at Mathematics by Being Really Really Evil
Stop rewriting the record books, math is for gearheads only
It’s clearly already stunted your growth.
When not in Rome, bicker, blather...

It’s 5 am and you are clearly becoming inebriated. But hey,
two out of three ain’t bad.

There’s really only one principle you need to keep in mind to be
deadly good at math.

For arbitrary completeness reasons, this comic is also supposed to include
the phrase “DRUGGED,” but I’ve been
stoppying up too little for keynote me so
I don’t care enough to bother finishing.

THE ADVENTURES OF MAN

by Scott Rudick
scott@rudick.com

So I just finished reading
Atlas Shrugged.
That so?

Half-baked philosophy,
tedious, one-dimensional
characters, atrocious
prose, and a boring,
bloated plot.

Only a species as
posthume as Man could
produce such a self-
important load of drivel.

I also produced
“America’s Most Wanted.”
Touché?

Run Bug

by Perez-Franco

Hey, Buddy! That’s
some mighty parka you
have on. Why are you
dressed like that?

I thought it would be
freezing today.

Ever heard of this
thing called ‘weather
forecast’?

I don’t trust it. A few
days ago, it said 31
degrees or so...

...“just like home”, I
said. So I dressed in
shorts and went out. I
almost froze to death!

Ever heard of the
Fahrenheit scale?
Today’s set of Fox trot comics will be the last published in The Tech because Bill Amend, the creator of Fox trot, is no longer doing daily publication. The comic strip will be replaced with the much-requested Doonesbury. Created by Gary Trudeau, Doonesbury chronicles—in part—the trials and tribulations of the character Alex Doonesbury as an MIT undergraduate.

Marie Thibault, Editor in Chief
Dilbert®

by Scott Adams
Mystery Hunt, from Page 1

government category into United States state abbreviations and applying the order of the US Senate seating assembly. Dr. Awkward was stuck on the puzzle for several hours. “The ‘Aha!’ moment was when someone on the team discovered that synonyms have assigned number seating in the assembly,” Berlin said.

Ready, set, go! The kickoff, themed “How to Succeed at the MIT Mystery Hunt by Being Really Really Awesome,” took place on Friday, Jan. 12 at 12:12 p.m. in a packed Lobby 7.

Following tradition, last year’s winning team, The Evil Midnight Bombers What Bomb at Midnight, organized this year’s hunt for the mass of eager puzzle-lovers. In this lively crowd, many were seen playing with Rubik’s Cubes or “warming up” with crosswords as they waited for the first puzzles to be released.

One such student was Jongjin B. Kim ’09, who was part of a small team in the hunt for just the fun of solving a few puzzles. “They have a whole bunch of hints thrown in, and you’re supposed to find out what the hell you’re supposed to get from there,” Kim said.

Once the puzzle Web site was activated, the teams scattered to their bases to hungrily attack the five displayed puzzles. Many teams tore down this batch in a couple of hours, which led them to a traditioned theme, “How to Succeed Being Really Really Evil” as teams were upped into Hells. Based on the infamous Seven Deadly Sins, the puzzles were categorized into several groups, such as performing arts, sports, crime, and mass manipulation. Each category had a certain number of puzzles and a meta-puzzle, which required the team to somehow combine all of the answers in one category to form a final answer.

Granted, with over 100 brand new puzzles to solve in a span of around 48 hours, many participants voluntarily sacrificed sleep. “I hunted noon to midnight Friday, slept midnight to 4 a.m., took a nap from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, then slept again at 10 a.m. Sunday, after the coin had been found,” McGann said.

Hand-core puzzle solvers like Berlin also had trouble in the sleep department. “First night, I intended to sleep. But I just couldn’t — and ended up lyying awake on my bed for three hours,” Berlin said. “The second night was worse — I went back to my hotel to rest because we were stuck on this one last puzzle for hours — Forty-five minutes after I fell asleep, I got a phone call saying that they had solved it, so I hurried back.”

Sports of brilliance were key to solving many infuriating puzzles. Elizabeth G. Lovegrove ’09 discussed her troubles with the puzzle “The Usual Suspects.” “A friend wandered into the lounge and I flagged him down. ‘Come help me,’ I am completely stuck,” I said. ‘I have no idea,’ he responded, and went to leave, then turned back and said, ‘Oh, you did notice that they are all Chess cards, right?’ We finally solved it 15 minutes later,” Lovegrove said.

Even though such difficult puzzles frustrated many teams, everyone also had their favorites from the weekend.

“Of the ones that I solved, the pirate-themed one... and the one where they had us reassemble haikus — that was a cute one,” Berlin said. “For a puzzle to be fun, it doesn’t have to be one of those ‘brainbuster’ ones.”

Danube Kim ’09 and Sarah P. Slotznick ’09, two members of the Pranahus in the Battith, MIT’s official Musical Theatre Guild Mystery Hunt team, had a great time with one of the performing arts puzzles titled “Encore! Encore!” It featured subclues of actors who participated in MIT drama productions in all theater groups. “It was awesome that we could use names off our programs!” Kim and Slotznick said.

The sleep deprivation ends The wrap-up event held on Sun- day, Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. consisted of the Evil Midnight Bombers team explaining some of the more painful puzzles and opening up the floor for audience input. Many teams shared funny stories about their wild weekend adventures as well as their frustations.

One of the puzzles that participants enjoyed was “D4 Ducks Playing Poker,” which instructed teams to put in a “live duck in center” and use it to start the game of poker. Jennifer M. Braun ’02, co-captain of the Evil Midnight Bombers team, talked about how several confused people called in about this “live duck” deal. “One team sounded genuinely concerned that they didn’t have a live duck,” Braun said.

The least solved puzzle was titled “Squad Car” under the crime category. It involved a series of lengthy cryptograms, which eventually spelled out the ironically short answer “Doomsday.”

The Mystery Hunt dates back to 1980 with MIT student Brad E. Scharfer ’78. After he left the Institute in 1983, the tradition of passing down the right to organize the following year’s hunt to the winning team of the previous year continued.

For the full list of this year’s puzzles and solutions, go to http://web.mit.edu/puzzle/www/07/puzzles/.

Squidger and Squop — Tiddlywinks Make the Pot

Tiddlywinks has been a tradition at MIT since the formation of the MIT Tiddlywinks Association (MITtwa) in 1966. This past weekend MITtwa held a tournament to revive interest in the game. Tiddlywinks requires using a large plastic disc, or equid, to knock a smaller colored disc, or wink, into a cup, or pot. Players will sometimes squop, or cover their opponent’s winks with their own, rendering the opponent’s wink unplayable. More information about the game can be found on MIT alumnum Richard Tucker’s ’80 website, http://tiddlywinks.org.

Clockwise from left: Matthew Fayers, an MIT post-doctoral fellow who learned the game in England, stops in to referee a game. With the help of a blue penlight, Fayers determines which winks are squopped. A tiddlywinks player carefully lines up his squidger for a precision shot.

Gregory C. Durrett ’10 squops an opponent’s wink to stop it from being potted.

Photography by Samuel E. Kronick
Professor of Electrical Engineering and President Emeritus Paul E. Gray. "I started my career at MIT as an undergraduate student in Course 17 in 1951. Throughout the years, he has served the Institute in a number of capacities. He rose to be the 14th president of MIT from 1980-1990, and chairman of the MIT Corporation from 1990-1997. Since then, he has continued to teach undergraduate classes and to advise underclassmen at MIT. This fall Winter offered his 70th year of service to MIT.

The following is the first of a two-part interview in which Gray reflects on his early interest in science and his experience as a student and professor.

The Tech: Describe some memori-able moments of childhood.

Paul Gray: I was an only child. I was born in the depths of the Depression, and my family was not too well off. I had only one child. I have two cous- ins on each side of the family, although I was in contact with only one of them when I was young. My family, from when I was about five or six years old until when World War II started in 1941, when I would have been 12 or 13, spent most of the summers at a place in Manasquan on the Jersey Shore. My father had wonderful memories of the ocean and time spent in the ocean. I was in the water from morning until night almost every day in July and August.

What else? As I said earlier, I was born in New Jersey and my family-lively lived in East Orange, New Jersey, near Newark and New York City. That year, we moved to Livingston, New Jersey, into a new house, a house that my mother and my father had bought, and it was very exciting.

Living there, we had lived in East Orange in a two-family home. We lived in the first floor and somebody else lived on the second floor in a very urban setting.

"As a kid, I was interested in making things and particularly interested in things that had to do with electricity and electronics."

—Paul E. Gray ‘54

To move to what was then a "truck-farming community" with very little population was exciting. It was a totally different experience.

As a kid, I was interested in making things and particularly interested in things that had to do with electricity and electronics. All amateur radio operations were shut down during the war, and I didn’t have any chance for my license for my exam and I went to New York on the train one day and got my license as an amateur radio operator within weeks after the war ended. I had my hobby in high school. POG at our high school had a club and one of the projects that we were able to do out of school to start jobs, which my father did after World War II. Paul E. Gray left MIT for the first time, I was commissioned in the [Radio Officer Training Corps]. We got married in the summer between the time I finished the five years and then applied for a commission in the Army. I did job interviews that fifth summer and had an offer to work in Labs, RCA B&L, L&B. I accepted an offer from RCA with the mutual understanding that I would take a military leave in September to be on active duty for the next two years. I was in a branch of the army called the Army Security Agency, a security and cryptology area. It was then doing what the National Security Agency does now, that is, it was dealing by communicating to the communications of the folks on the other side of the Iron Curtain, which was a big issue at the height of the Cold War.

I was sent to Fort Devens here near Devens and there I had a training from September to January. There were three universities in the United States that had military Security Agency branch: MIT, Texas A&M, and University of Michigan.

There were two ways you were supposed to understand what the other folks were saying. One was through "traffic analysis," where you looked at patterns of communication: who talked to whom, and how frequently the patterns changed over time. You couldn’t predict what they are saying, but you try to figure out what you can from the patterns. The other term, which is no longer possible, is through cryptanalysis, where you try to decode what they are saying. The codes that are used now are essentially unbreakable.

I was being trained as a traffic analyst. It was a clear cutthrough way, I don’t think there were other ways to handle that program that there were only a couple of really good assignments that were very good, I mean, I was taught that you could live in a fairly civilized way and take your wife — and these are the conditions I described in the fall of 1942, when I was in West Germany, Japan, South Korea, and other places where the circumstances were very difficult. I was one of the few that was told what the Soviets were saying to each other, we didn’t have a license to wiretaps to accompany any of them in those areas, but the training that I learned from working at MIT Teaching in the Army is a setting where there is exposure to many citizens. We could not carry certain material in each lesson and therefore were reading like a book and had enough of experiences to feel that way after four or five years.

PG: I think a lot of people do. Bette has its believers. I didn’t hate, but I had enough. I thought I was going to go into the army, do some research in the labs, and go to R & C, and take, work in a research area in a company.

When I left MIT after five years, I took the job as R & A and worked through June, July, and August before I went into service and took military leave. My wife-to-be was one year behind me in school. We had only one child. I have two cousins on each side of the family, and in the years when I was young.

As a kid, I was interested in making things and particularly interested in things that had to do with electricity and electronics."

—Paul E. Gray ‘54

The second section was formed.

"When I left here in 1955, I never wanted to see the inside of the place again."

—Paul E. Gray ‘54

class rank. It was not a difficult program, and I ended up being first in the class. I got my desired program of study, and I ended up being the year will mark fifty years of my em-

The other, which is very famous, is the lesson plans. You couldn’t use them in shelters in Boston or in deprived coun-

It was just five years of unre-

"Some students have been asking me about the place."

—Paul E. Gray ‘54
Cut in Student Loan Rates Proposed Fri. By House Democrats

By Diana Jean Schemo

WASHINGTON

By House Democrats on Friday unveiled a bill that would cut interest rates on federally subsidized loans to college students by half over the next five years.

They said they would provide the $6 billion measure by interest costs that lenders pay to the government and reducing the largest lenders’ government-guaranteed profits.

The bill, one of half a dozen that the new House majority had placed on its 100-hour agenda, underscores the Democrats’ all-out effort to consolidate gains made in November among middle-class voters.

“How to pay for a college education has become a primary concern for students and families across this country, a concern that Congress must urgently address as part of our goal of strengthening America’s middle class,” said Representative George Miller, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

The measure is expected to pass in the House, where it is scheduled for a vote tomorrow. Its future in the Senate is less certain, although the concept behind it is supported by Democratic leaders there, including Edward M. Kennedy, chairman of the education subcommittee, who is planning to introduce a similar bill.

House Republicans, who in trying to contain college costs have focused in recent years on restraining tuition increases, complained Friday of being shut out of the process of writing the new bill and said they would offer amendments before Wednesday’s vote.

“I’m hopeful we can work in a bipartisan way to build upon it, including with reforms that actually make college more affordable and more accessible for middle-class students,” said Representative Howard P. McKeon of California, the ranking Republican on Mr. Miller’s committee.

“Many people in Congress have taken the issue of college affordability very seriously,” Mr. McKeon said at a Wednesday hearing.

“But I don’t see any indication that we are within striking distance of any real reform,” he said.

Student debt has grown exponentially in recent years. The average college student now graduates with nearly $18,000 in debt. 3.4 percent from the current rate of 6.8 percent, in stages. The first reductions would affect new loans made after July 1.

According to the Project on Student Debt, a nonprofit group, the bill would save a student who graduates from college with $20,000 in debt about $4,000 over the 10-year life of a loan.

Under the program of subsidized Stafford loans, the government guarantees lenders a rate of return that can be higher than the interest rate paid by the student. In trying to finance their proposal, House Democrats decided that for the largest lenders, the bill would lower that rate by 0.1 percentage point. It would also raise fees that lenders pay to the government, and cut payments that lenders receive if a student defaults.

While applauded by student advocacy groups, the bill drew immediate criticism from the student loan industry, which complained that it had already absorbed $12 billion in reduced payments from the government as part of a $50 billion Republican-led deficit reduction effort last year.

“We are deeply disappointed that President Obama has failed to make college more affordable,” said Vice President for Government Relations at the National Association of Student Loan Associations.

“Sending a strong signal to student borrowers, and creating high expectations among them for further aid,” Mr. Joyce said, “will not serve the interest of students and the parents themselves.”

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“We are deeply disappointed that President Obama has failed to make college more affordable,” said Vice President for Government Relations at the National Association of Student Loan Associations.

“The measure unveiled Friday would help students with only part in other ways as well. Raising Pell grants to a maximum of $5,500 a year, from $4,050.

“The Tech wishes Chairman Zachary Ozer a happy 22nd birthday!
By Carolyn Said

SAN FRANCISCO

They carry stacks of resumes, wear sober suits and keep their cell phones and laptops perpetually at hand. They are primed with thoughtful answers for any question. Now they're descending on the Bay Area in an annual quest for summer internships and full-time jobs.

Flocks of MBA students from East Coast schools headed west this month, hoping to land jobs in the beating heart of the tech world. This year, many said, the uptick in the demand is strong for the top exec who fills, which bodes well for the job hunt.

"When executive hiring is moving too soon." said Da-...
Additional Channels
Well Received, ESPN
Not Offered in Cable

Cable, from Page 1

those packages and now we can offer all of the channels rather than just a few,” Miller said.

The student response to the new channels has been generally positive. “It makes me feel like MIT loves us a little more,” Arup Sarma ’08 said. “Although I know a few people who are upset about the lack of ESPN.”

That sports network, which has consistently come in at the top of cable television surveys, is not available to students.

“We’re aware of the demand and are still working on a solution,” Winchester said.

Previous cost estimates have ranged from $225,000 to $500,000 per year for whole campus service. Alternatively, students could individually subscribe for $10 per month, although that would require a subscription and billing system.

“I would appreciate ESPN, but I wouldn’t be willing to pay for it,” said Daniel Piedra ’09. “I’m just happy to see all the new channels, especially FX and Comedy Central.”

Not all students, however, were as pleased with the additional channels. “TV? What’s TV?” said Kristina M. Haller ’08. “Is that like BitTorrent for the analog world?”

New MIT Cable Channels

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<th>Channel</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>48 FX</td>
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<td>49 National Geographic Channel</td>
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<td>50 Speed Channel</td>
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<td>51 The Learning Channel</td>
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<td>59 CourtTV</td>
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<td>60 SciFi</td>
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<td>61 E! Entertainment</td>
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One Broadway Re-opened Friday

One Broadway was opened for re-occupancy Friday, Jan. 12 by the MIT Management Investment Company. Environmental testing had previously shown that the building was safe, and all necessary approvals from city officials were received by Jan. 11. Rent abatement will continue for some tenants until next week.

The building had been officially closed since the Dec. 8, 2006 explosion of an NSTAR transformer, which caused a major electrical fire.

According to a information sheet released by MITIMCO, MIT is planning to upgrade some HVAC systems to improve ventilation to the stairwells. The cause of the transformer explosion that caused the December fire is still unknown and under investigation by NSTAR.

More information can be found at the MIT News Office site: http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/topic/onebroadway.html.

—Rosa Cao

McCormick East Tower Flooded

A stairwell in McCormick Hall’s East Tower was flooded Saturday, Jan. 13 due to a faulty drain pipe between the sixth and seventh floors. Water flowed into the stairwell next to the bathroom around 1 p.m. after residents used the shower, according to Director of Housing Dennis Collins.

The water to part of the East Tower was turned off until the pipe was repaired, and the stairwell was out of service for Saturday afternoon, though students had access to another stairwell in the tower, McCormick Housemaster Kathryn Hess said.

Though the water was mostly in the stairwell, the carpet on several floors did get wet, Collins said. On duty housekeepers were immediately dispatched to clean up the water, Collins said. “No dorms were flooded. No students were evacuated. This was not a big flood,” Hess said.

After touring the stairwell on Tuesday morning, Collins said he believes that “everything is back to normal!” The only cost to fix the damage will be the plumbing charges from MIT Facilities, Collins said.

The broken drain pipe is just another indication of “aging infrastructure,” Hess said. “The guys from Facilities who were on site said that they are seeing a lot of this type of pipe break — pipes just corroding out with time.”

—Ji Qi

Eighty plaster hands appeared in Killian Court the Wednesday before finals week, marking the exhibition of Bilyoun M. Buczynski’s ’10 4.301 final project. More details about the project can be found on http://www.bilyoun.com/
Individual Butterfly, Freestyle Key in Win
Champion Diver Holbrook Wins One-Meter

Swimming, from Page 16

In the 100-yard butterfly, MIT nearly achieved a second 1-2-3 sweep by Souganidis, Priya Parayanthal '10, and Jessica A. Harpole '07, but Harpole just missed finishing third to take fourth place. Souganidis won the event with a time of 1:01.35.

Thornton added individual wins in the 1000-yard freestyle with a time of 10:42.75 and the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:15.33. Brophy also emerged victorious in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:58.83.

Champion Diver Holbrook Wins One-Meter

Former NCAA Diving Champion Doria M. Holbrook '08 was once again victorious in her signature event, one-meter diving, with a score of 241.55. Holbrook also placed second in three-meter diving to newcomer Lauren P. Cipicchio '10, who won the event with a score of 295.80.

The team effort led head coach Darcy Greenn to give the team the ultimate sign of satisfaction: a well-deserved day off from training. Buoyed by their weekend of solid racing and the impending day off, the Engineers shouted in celebration, "Forget the meet, forget the cheer, let's go home and drink some...Kool-Aid!"

MIT Second Half Rally Doesn’t Close Big Gap

Basketball, from Page 16

a trey from Macko. After two minutes of scoreless play, Yuan ended the drought with a lay-up which was followed by back-to-back baskets and a free throw by Marshall. On WPI's ensuing possession, Marshall picked up a steal and set up Lauren N. Simmons '10 for what proved to be the final bucket of the run. Macko notched WPI's first basket in six minutes at the 12:28 mark, which set off a 17-2 Worcester run for a 64-37 lead with 4:19 left to play, a lead largely unchallenged in the waning minutes.

Prange picked up a team-high seven rebounds, two steals, and a block while Bachelman grabbed six boards. Kimberly E. SooHoo '08 dished out five assists for MIT.

Both teams continue conference play on the road today. MIT will visit Wheaton College while WPI will travel to Wellesley College.

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THE NINE MIT STUDENTS BELOW WILL BE JOINING US THIS SUMMER AS ANALYSTS. CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM TODAY. AND FOR THE FUTURE.

MICHAEL AFRASIABI • YAHLI BECKER • KJ CHANG • SAIID FRANCIS
SEOK JEONG • DUNCAN MA • JEFFREY PAN • ROSE WONG • INDY YU

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CONGRATULATIONS
SIEBEL SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2007

THE THOMAS AND STACEY SIEBEL FOUNDATION established the Siebel Scholars program to recognize students who have demonstrated academic and leadership excellence at the world’s leading graduate schools of business and computer science. Each year, these outstanding students are selected based upon academic merit and leadership in the first year of their graduate studies. We are pleased to recognize the recipients of this year’s Siebel Scholarships, each of whom has received an award of $25,000.

CARNegie MELLoN UnIVeRSeT, School of Computer Science
MICHaeL dILLe
MICHaeL HeeLMAN
LUcIA dE LAcQUAIn
PrADHPr BAVUKUMAR
AdAM WrKeMAN

hArvARD UnIVeRSeT, Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences
PETER WEBb

MASSACHUsETTS InStItUTE OF teCHNOloGY, School of Engineering
JONATHAN BATTaI
PENyASHILOKA BIDWAL
HONGYI Hu
ROBERT FILAWA
CHEN ZHAO

MASSACHUsETTS InStItUTE OF teCHNOloGY, Sloan School of Management
JOSE ALMEIDA
ALPER CELEN
ALICE CHEN
JEFF GODY
NICHOLAS PADGALSKAS

NORTHWESTERN UnIVeRSeT, Kellogg School of Management
ADITYA BHASiRAM
AkSHAYA GUJbATI
CHRISTOPHER GREGORY
DAVE NEwMAN
DOUGLAS SCOTT JR.

S tAnDoRD UnIVeRSeT, Department of Computer Science
DAVID AKEES
KATHERINE BRANdARD
F RANS aDIE EFFENdI
CHANG-JEO PARK
DAVID REISS

STAnDoRD UnIVeRSeT, Graduate School of Business
AMIT CHEn
KERMIT COOK
RYAN COTTON
SEAN HARRINGTON
RAVtUV SEN

UnIVeRSeTy OF CaLIFoRNIa, BERRkeley, College of Engineering
DAvID aNdRoeH bAHL
DAVID GARMIRE
HOYLE IBEZ
NATHAN JARdEL

UnIVeRSeTy OF ChICago, Graduate School of Business
JESSIE DAVIS
JOHN Law
MICKy O'NEILL
MARK SCHGRTINO
AKSHAY SETI

UnIVeRSeTy OF ILLINoIS, UBRANA-chAMPAIGN, Department of Computer Science
WILLIAM BAKER
DAVID HOFFLINDER
DAVID KELZIAN
KASHIF MANZoor
DAFNA SHAMAF

www.siebelscholars.com
**Swimming Dominates Tri-Match To Stay Unbeaten in NEWMAC**

As much as I love the Patriots (and Lord knows I do, my friends can attest that I never take off my No. 12 jersey days), I have to admit that the Patriots’ victory Saturday was more of a Chargers’ loss. The Patriots could not compete physically with the Chargers, particularly after the loss of safety Edelman physically with the Chargers, was more of a Chargers’ loss. 

**San Diego Errors, Not Patriots’ Skills**

By Caroline Huang

San Diego Errors, Not Patriots’ Skills

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**Column 1/17/07**

**UPCOMING HOME EVENTS**

**Wednesday, January 17**

Men’s Basketball vs. WPI
7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Men’s Hockey vs. WPI
7:00 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

**Thursday, January 18**

Men’s Volleyball vs. Mount Ida
7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

**Saturday, January 20**

Pistol vs. US Merchant Marine Academy
9:00 a.m., duPont Athletic Center

Men’s and Women’s Track vs. Wofford State, Williams
12:30 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

Women’s Basketball vs. Springfield
1:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving vs. Tufts
1:00 p.m., Zeiger Center

Women’s Gymnastics vs. Cortland State, Rhode Island, Wisconsin
3:00 p.m., duPont Gymnasium

Women’s Volleyball vs. Elms College
4:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Men’s Volleyball vs. Lesley
8:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

**Despite Early 7-2 Advantage, Women’s Hoops Behind By 19 at Halftime, Unable to Catch WPI**

By Blandon Edwards

Despite Early 7-2 Advantage, Women’s Hoops Behind By 19 at Halftime, Unable to Catch WPI

A pair of key runs in each half helped WPI to a 19-point victory over MIT in a NEWMAC women’s basketball game on Saturday.

Claire J. Yuen ’09, Sharon M. Paone ’07, and Amy J. Marshall ’09 combined to notch 10 points for MIT. WPI’s Meghan Pajo finished the day with 23 points and 10 rebounds, after accumulating 17 points and seven boards in the opening period.

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