Water Supply Stops Briefly Due to Main Water Pipe Rupture

By JoHe Kim

A water main ruptured on the corner of Main and Ames St., flooding the intersection and interrupting water flow to 21 MIT buildings last Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 9 a.m. Water flow to most buildings was restored by early afternoon, a city crew had repaired the break by 7 a.m. Thursday morning. The Department of Facilities could not specify the reason for the main pipe burst; the municipal water infrastructure falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Cambridge. City officials were not available for comment. According to David J. McCormick, director of operations in the Department of Facilities, there was initially flooding from the pipe break. "Facilities had water flowing into the basement of Building 19 where we mobilized to minimize the damage to MIT's property in this building," McCormick said. The Department of Facilities began notifying MIT building occupants as the City of Cambridge began to shut valves down the street in an attempt to prevent water flow from the broken pipe. Buildings E1, E15, E17, E18, E19, E40, E52, E53, 16, 18, 32, 44, 46, 48, 56, 57, 66, and 68, which house laboratories and offices, were affected, as well as undergraduate dormitories Senior House (E2) and both parlors of East Campus (62 and 64), according to Director of Housing Dennis Collins. MIT will have to pay for property damage from the flooding, according to McCormick; cost estimates were not yet available. The Department of Facilities and the City provided alternate water sources for those buildings whose outages lasted more than a few hours. "The Department of Facilities immediately dispatched plumbers to back feed water to all buildings affected," Collins said. "They ran a large hose from a fire hydrant for Senior House around mid-afternoon. They also brought in a line for East Campus by Water Main, Page 15.

Perks of Being a Geek on Reality TV

By Joanne Shih

"I ain't no drama mama. I ain't no drama mama." Eric L. Grimson PhD '80, head of the EECS department, is not one to talk about his experiences on and since the show. "I can't talk about it," he said. "In some ways, it was a very vague question and one of my colleagues at work had a good analogy — that made me feel a lot better — that's like asking what type of vehicle you prefer. It's red. I don't feel like it was either one of our faults or that we didn't try our hardest or that we didn't look good." However, the opportunity to sit down and chat with Matt over the weekend about his experiences on and since the show was a "very nice thing," he added. "And we didn't look good." He offered a last piece of advice. "Put Pay Less," (answer: Target), which store's slogan is "Get more."

Brain and Cognitive Sciences Professor Mark Bear became the new director for the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory this month. See story on page 11.

The Weather

Wednesday: Mostly Sunny. 7°F (−14°C) 1:00 p.m./7°F (−14°C) Details, Page 2

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

Volume 126, Number 63 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Wednesday, January 24, 2007

By Joyce Kwan

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science is overhauling its curriculum to allow students more flexibility within the department, most of which will be implemented in Fall 2007. As approved by the Committee on the Curricula this month, the department will make two new introductory courses mandatory for new EECS majors beginning in Fall 2007: Introduction to EECS (1.081) and Introduction to EECS (1.082), both of which have been offered as elective courses for the past few semesters. Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) will be phased out. Beginning in Fall 2007, 6.081 and 6.082 will be offered as 6.081R and 6.082R, respectively. For current students, taking the 12 unit 6.081 along with the three unit 6.888 supplement, which focuses on the Scheme language, fulfills the 6.001 requirement.

Discussions on the changes began two years ago, while Provost L. Rafael Reif was still head of the department, according to EECS Professor George C. Verghese, a member of the committee in charge of re-evaluating the curriculum. The department decided on the need for overhaul because of the structure of the curriculum remnant of change for about 30 years, he said. "We are trying to make curricular changes that have not been made or have been covered before." The two new subjects, 6.081 and 6.082, have already been implemented and this spring will mark their third and second offering, respectively. They were designed to offer an alternate introduction to the department, one that covers a broad spectrum of the field.

EECS Department Head W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80 said, "We wanted to develop an introduction to the department that responds to several important pedagogical issues. It should cut more broadly across all of EECS, it should have a strong hands-on experience, and it should engage students in more direct contact with teaching staff than the traditional lecture-recitation format." According to Verghese, after completing the introductory subjects, the department will then make changes in the intermediate and advanced courses.

Course VI

Classes To Change

Beginning Fall 2008

Course VI

By Joyce Kwan

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Biography

Hennes Friedrich G, a second year graduate student in the Biology Department, died Jan. 5, 2007. He was found in his Boston apartment. The Boston Police Department is waiting on a toxicology report to determine the official cause of death, although an autopsy has been perpe...
Suicide Bomber Kills 10 Near NATO Base in Afghanistan

By Abdul Waheed Wafa

The New York Times

A suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up Tues-
day at the entrance to a NATO base in the southeastern province of Khosht, killing as many as 10 people, officials said.

The attack occurred at about 7 a.m. local time near a residential area of the Jalalabad military security guards, though a NATO statement put the toll at six Afghan civilians and two policemen.

"The attack targeted the gate of the Afghan security guards, who were in a suicide attack at the entrance of the military base," Jamali said.

He said 14 others had been wounded in the attack, all Afghan ci-
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China Confirms Space Test; Denies Intent to Intimidate

By Joseph Kahn

The Chinese government publicly confirmed Tuesday that it had conducted a successful test of a new anti-satellite weapon but said it had no intention of participating in a "space race."

The confirmation was made at a regular Foreign Ministry news briefing. 12 days after China used a medium-range ballistic missile to destroy one of its own weather satellites 355 miles above Earth.

Several countries, including the United States, Japan, Britain and Aus-
tralia, on Wednesday in Beijing, apparently interested in the successful destruction of a satellite in orbit in more than 20 years.

Until now, Chinese officials declined to confirm or deny that it had occurred. A top Chinese military spokesman quoted that quoted Bush administra-
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Li Jiang, the For-

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Beirut: Heavy Quake Kills Hundreds

By Nancy Wiechec

At least 500 people were killed and scores injured when a strong earthquake jolted the Lebanese capital of Beirut Tuesday, the government said.

The tremor, the strongest in Beirut since 1932, lasted about 20 seconds and was felt across the Mediterranean country.

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Opinion Policy

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

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, PO 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 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.

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Fauns, Fairies, and Friggin’ Tragedies

Pan’s Labyrinth is Amazing, and Amazingly Sad

By Sarah Dupuis

Film Review

Pan’s Labyrinth is an amazing film, and is very sad. It tells the story of a young girl named Ofelia (I won’t say much more about her, so as not to spoil the film). Ofelia is left abandoned by her parents and finds herself living in a small town in Spain, in the late 1940s. She is taken care of by her stepmother, a blindfolded woman named Magdalena, who is often referred to as “the Faun.”

The Faun is a mysterious creature who is half man and half antelope. He takes Ofelia on a journey through the magical world of Pan’s Labyrinth, where she meets a group of rebels who are fighting against the cruel dictator Franco. Ofelia must choose between the real world and the magical world, and she must decide whether to stay with her stepmother or to join the rebels.

The film is a beautiful and poignant tale, with stunning visual effects and a haunting score. It is a story about love, loss, and the power of imagination. Pan’s Labyrinth is a must-see film for anyone who loves fantasy or is interested in the history of Spain during the Franco era.

Haines Has Got Your Back

Beautiful Show; from Metric’s Lead Singer at Paradise Rock Club

Haines

Hailed through the rumor mill that Emily Haines plays her solo shows blindfolded.

The rumor made sense; Haines’ first single for her solo project, “Metric,” is a dizzying piano tune titled “Yours Truly, Goodform.” With the help of her backing band, the Soft Skeleton, Haines’ new album, Knives Don’t Have Your Back (2006), is a tight and full set of songs that dips into melancholy, pop, and rock tunes despite the generally minimalistic instrumentation. So regardless of whether or not Haines were the potential eye gear, I was looking forward to an exciting show on January 24.

She opted out of the blindfold, but didn’t disappoint. Haines started the show with “One Hell,” the opening track from the aformentioned Knives. She then played “Doctor Blind.” The second track, and by the time she’d started “Crowd Surf Off A Cliff” I realized she was playing the album track-by-track in a chronological and complete order. Sometimes, playing an album live in its entirety can limit a performer’s or the audience’s half of the fun of seeing a concert is spontaneity and the sense of accomplishment one feels when a favorite song is played. Luckily, Haines is talented and fascinating enough a performer to make the repertoire exciting regardless of the order it was presented in. Live, her songs had the naked feel of an intimate performance in a basement, and all the seductive appeal of a chance meeting with a stranger.

In between songs, Haines engaged the audience with a personal rapport akin to conversational coffee. “Rain’s cool if you’re looking for gloom,” said Haines of the evening’s weather, “which I’m not.” Ironically, most of her songs are gloomy melodies played gaudily decorated with a tight backing band. This tone translated well in the live setting, and she was even more vocally emotive in concert than on Knives. Haines can turn off the rapt that defines her voice when she needs to, and at a few opportune moments she releases an energetic, astounding vocal clarity. Both ways of singing suit her and suited the show.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly Haines’ performance of “The Lottery,” a cool number that discusses the new crime of “sexual suicide” and begs its audience to “commit it.”

You can commit sexual suicide by blatantly having sex — a somewhat disturbing plot but was nonetheless enjoyable. Unfortunately, the film doesn’t provide quite enough entertainment to fill its 117-minute length, and by the end, I was consumed with boredom.

The other films in “The Animation Show” are interesting in their various animation styles which ranged from morphing kaleidoscope art to sophisticated special effects. One such example is Joanna Quinn’s “Dreams and Desires,” which has a unique flowing sketch motif. The only problem is that the plot seemed tacked on at the end merely to show off the animation. Sadly, this was a flaw that persisted in many of the films. These films may have used extremely innovative techniques, but the techniques were only about as successful in making them good short films as the special effects in “The Animation Show” are in making “Pan” a good movie.

TAKING ALL OF THE SHORT FILMS TOGETHER AS A GROUP, THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY WIDE RANGE OF STYLES AND GENRES. IT’S A TREASURY OF SHORT FILMS THAT SHOWS THE VAST RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES THAT SHORT FILMS CAN OFFER. IT’S A TREASURY OF SHORT FILMS THAT SHOWS THE VAST RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES THAT SHORT FILMS CAN OFFER.
PROOF OF FALSE

by Andrew Spann

YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE NEAT?
CHANGING YOUR NAME TO A de Bruijn SEQUENCE. THEN YOU'D HAVE THIS
REALLY LONG NAME, BUT YOU COULD
CLAIM THAT ANY SUBSTRING
WAS A VALID NICKNAME.

How would you manage that?
In order to generate a string containing
all 4-letter substrings of a 26-letter alphabet you need 26^4 characters.
That's really long.

Okay, I'd just name myself
'shithead'. That will cover...

Deep! How do you plan on dealing
with the fact that de Bruijn
sequences aren't unique?

THE OTHER 22 LETTERS
DON'T MATTER...

BE QUIET.

Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco

Calling Shuttle Track.

"You have reached
Shuttle Track. For
Boston West, press
one. For Boston East,
press two."

"For Cambridge
West, press three.
For Cambridge East,
pres four. For Tech
Shuttle, press five."

"This Shuttle is
currently not being
tracked. Please try
to again later."

'It's freezing
out here.'
Some Assembly Required

by Alex Hornstein

I kinda hate myself for saying this, but... damnit, he’s right!

Do you have a rope ladder you could throw down?

where are we going?

My name’s Dylan. I, uhm, I’ve been wanting to ask you out for a while now, but I couldn’t think of a good way to bring it up, so I built this dirigible. I figure, girls can’t say no to a guy in a dirigible.

 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.

Simple Geometric

By: Danhee Kim

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com; see also solution, page 17.
Free tickets for MIT Students!

Collage New Music: Monday, January 29, 2007 @ 8:00pm
Pickman Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden Street, Cambridge

Martin Brody  Millennium Sightings (1999)
Olly Wilson  A City Called Heaven (1989)

Tickets are not required for Collage concerts - simply show your MIT student ID at the box office on the night of the concert (one admission per ID)

Boston Secession: Friday, February 2, 2007 @ 8:00pm
First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, Margaret Jewett Hall, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

“(Un)Lucky in Love”
Boston Secession continues its tenth anniversary season with “(Un)Lucky in Love,” the ensemble’s alternative Valentine program. According to artistic director Jane Frank, the program is designed to “add a little tongue-in-cheek bitter to balance out the icky sweetness normally associated with Valentines” by featuring the jaded and darkly humorous love songs of artists as wide ranging as Joni Mitchell, cabaret classics composer William Bolcom, the opera masters Mozart and Donizetti and 20th century greats Benjamin Britten and Peter Schickele.

Boston Chamber Music Society: Sunday, February 4, 2007 @ 7:30pm
Sanders Theater, Memorial Hall, Harvard University, 45 Quincy Street, Harvard Square

Elliott Carter  Cello Sonata (1948)
Bartók  Contrasts, Op. 116
Mendelssohn  Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 49

2 Tickets per valid MIT Student ID
Pick up tickets at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205)
Monday - Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm

MIT's 128th (*) annual

Come pit your wit and integration skill against your peers, and vie for the coveted title of GRAND INTEGRATOR!

http://math.mit.edu/~tkemp/integrationbee

Thursday, January 25
54-100  3pm - 5pm
QUALIFYING ROUND

Drop in to write a 20 Minute exam to qualify as a participant.

Tuesday, January 30
54-100  6pm - 8pm
MAIN EVENT

Watch the mathematical battle of the year, and cheer on the next Grand Integrator!

(*) Accurate to 2 orders of magnitude
What do you want to do next?

Share our passion to deliver results.
Your years at Bain will set the stage for endless opportunities.

Associate Consultant Internship:

Resume Drop:
Date: Monday, January 29, 2007
via Monstertrak

First Round Interviews:
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2007
Place: Boston Office

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Not ULYSSES Grant Not Hugh Grant

IT'S Council for the Arts grant!

Application deadline: January 26, 2007
Contact: Susan Cohen at cohen@media.mit.edu
Application: http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html
Professor Talks About Achievements, Changes at MIT

By Jiao Wang

Professor of Electrical Engineering and President Emeritus Paul E. Gray ’54 addresses MIT as an undergraduate student in Guangzhou, China, in 1950. Through the years, he has served the Institute in a number of positions. He rose to be- come the 14th president of the MIT Corporation from 1990-1997. Since then, he has continued to teach un- dergraduate classes and to advise undergraduate students. This fall marks his 50th year of service to MIT.

The following is the second of a two-part interview in which Gray re- flects on his early interest in science and his experienc- es at the Institute.

The Tech

Describe some memorable accomplishments in your life.

Paul Gray
Well, I will put it in one dimension, which of course is the famous promotion formula, and I do believe that the most im- portant thing we did — we believed it was important — was to do a good job of parent- ing. The fact that the kids are now all grown up, well, they have their own lives, and there have not been any divorces or problems or anything of that sort — we don’t take all the credit for that. It is not easy these days for a father of four children to go through the pressures of life and stay stuck from family life and still have a balanced and fulfilling life and I delight in it fully with my wife.

One of the professional side, let me talk about something that happened during the period of Johnson’s presidency and preceding that. In 1968, follow- ing the deaths of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, there was the so-called Civil Rights Movement. At MIT, there were a number of things that we did in those ten years that was to shut down a department. There was a department here called Applied Biological Sciences. It had evolved from the Department of Food Sciences. In the 1970s, food tech- nology was a big deal. It was at MIT that people learned the rules for canning food and how to do it safely. If canned food had any living organ- isms in it such as bacteria, they could grow under certain conditions, and you could poison people by the mil- lions. Canning was a tough business until — a food manufacturer named [William L.] Underwood and a man named G. A. Heilicher in 1894 first laid out the sound scientific principles for doing cannery safely.

The department evolved from its 80- to 90-year history, from Food Technology to Technology to Food, Science, and Nutrition and eventually to Applied Biological Sciences. It was a small department, on the scale of Nuclear Science and Engineering today or Ocean Engineering before it merged with Mechanical Engineering. It had a number of people who were doing good work in certain areas. Yet, the department lacked a focus. There was no central mission, no focus selected together.

They were having trouble replacing faculty. They were selecting young faculty into the provost and I made a decision to shut it down. We did so in ways that protected the interests of the students and faculty who were in the pipeline. It was a time of great turmoil, a time of safety and students who never thought of the possibility wondered, “Gee, what do you think you accomplished that 10 years was shut down public- ly.”

—Paul E. Gray ’54

77. What do you think you suc- ceded in doing?

PC: I said something in the speech along the lines of changing the things that ought to be changed and preserving the things that don’t have to be, the values of the place and the character. I think we did reasonably well on that. There were changes in some of the laboratory structures. Some disappeared and a couple of new ones came into being. It was in the 1980s that we first got a focus on energy. The Energy Lab came about in those years.

One of the painful things that I did in those 10 years was to shut down a department. The department here called Applied Biological Sciences. It had evolved from the Department of Food Sciences. In the 1970s, food technology was a big deal. It was at MIT that people learned the rules for canning food and how to do it safely. If canned food had any living organisms in it such as bacteria, they could grow under certain conditions, and you could poison people by the millions. Canning was a tough business until a food manufacturer named [William L.] Underwood and a man named G. A. Heilicher in 1894 first laid out the sound scientific principles for doing cannery safely.

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They were having trouble replacing faculty. They were selecting young faculty into the provost and I made a decision to shut it down. We did so in ways that protected the interests of the students and faculty who were in the pipeline. It was a time of great turmoil, a time of safety and students who never thought of the possibility wondered, “Gee, what do you think you accomplished that 10 years was shut down public- ly.”

—Paul E. Gray ’54

77. What do you think you suc- ceded in doing?

PC: I said something in the speech along the lines of changing the things that ought to be changed and preserving the things that don’t have to be, the values of the place and the character. I think we did reasonably well on that. There were changes in some of the laboratory structures. Some disappeared and a couple of new ones came into being. It was in the 1980s that we first got a focus on energy. The Energy Lab came about in those years.

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Freshman Experience, Project-Based Classes Tested

By Manisha Padi

Spring semester 2007 will see the introduction of several experimental Communication Intensive classes based on recommendations from the final report of The Task Force on the Undergraduate Education Committee released last year regarding possible changes in the future General Institute Requirements.

Included among the experimen-
tational courses are project-based class-
es and humanities courses that will be considered as possible freshman experience classes.

"Faculty are so excited about those classes," said Elizabeth D. Cooper, the senior project manager at the Office of Faculty Support. "Many of them are teaching those as overtime."

The creation of the new classes will be funded by the Alumni and Bess d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in MIT Education. Project-based classes should allow students to "contribute to the definition of complex problems and to explore strategies for addressing them," according to the d'Arbeloff Fund's website.

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A Parody Raises Questions of Bias in Admissions

By Karen W. Arenson

Belda Chan, a senior at Princeton University, was stunned when she encountered an article in her school newspaper questioning her eligibility for admission. Ms. Chan, a history major from Massachusetts, had been “stressful.” She said he felt his efforts were not enough to prove that Princeton had a strong white student body.

At Princeton, where students are admitted to selective institutions like Harvard (18 percent), the number of Asian-Americans and women who have chosen to attend is much lower than the percentage of the population in the United States. They account for five percent of the population and make up 13 percent of under graduates last year, and make up 46 percent. At Princeton, they accounted for 13 percent of undergraduates last year, and make up 4 percent of the current freshman class.

But some critics, like Mr. Li, who applied for admission to the most selective institutions like Harvard (18 percent), said they had a strong white student body. He said he felt his efforts were not enough to prove that Princeton had a strong white student body.

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Technology Office Joins Restructured DUE

By Valerie K. Brobbley and Melanie Wang

The Technology Office (the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education) has been reorganized to encourage a structural reorganization last year to focus on the strategic goals and goals, including providing global educational opportunities for students and increasing diversity. Two new offices—the Office of Educational Innovation and Technology, and the Office of Faculty Support—were also added.

This month the Office of Educational Innovation and Technology, headed by Julie B. Norman, director of Undergraduate Academic Programs, said that her department is responsible for the development of a new student experience. Norman said that MIT has been slow to move into the 21st century and that there has been much more focus on undergraduate education. She added, “We are very interested in hearing what students have to say about the course.”

The UAAP will share the information with the review committee of the departments and work with faculty members to improve advising. Other projects being undertaken by the UAAP include an electronic newsletter and better training for academic advisors to improve UPDP supervision.

MIT ‘Geek’ Contestant Kicked Off Last Week

Geek, from Page 1

to this show even though I only started watching this season, which will have run for four years until tonight’s episode. I had to ask Matt how the show was and how much was scripted, or the result of producers putting a script on what had taken place. Were the cliches of action and the very action of the show.

“I was worse, in my opinion,” Matt insisted, mentioning that only three girls of five stereotyped earlier in the show besides herself, Andrea, and I were not expecting to be going home this week, so we didn’t take a box of Dentyne with us or anything, which was wish I would have done,” he joked.

Studying Fashion 101

In case you haven’t been watching, in tonight’s episode the remnant of the girls and boys being selected five pairs are supposed to go on a vacation to the beach, although Matt told me he couldn’t call it a vacation exactly.

“It can be a pretty stressful time,” he added. For two weeks with Andrea and I were studying, it was like a study for finals. You only had so many days to learn books worth of stuff!”

For example, in the episode by which Matt was eliminated, the girls had to become on experts on men’s fashion while the girls tackled marketing.

“Matt had been given study materials written by Carson Kressley from Queer Eye for the Straight Guy. “It was a little hard,” Matt said. He had already forgotten much of what he’d learned.

“They had pictures of all these types of shoes, all these different types of suits...”

Anything that could be used to put together pictures was a help. Perhaps. Matt had already forgotten much of what he’d learned.

“Don’t take a pair of shoes with you,” Matt told me. “Don’t wear pleated pants.” So when I asked Matt if he would consider going on the show, he replied, “I know everything that was somewhere on the street and the closest jeans to my size were still a little too big. Same thing with the shoes. Picture of all these types of shoes, all these different types of suits...”

“I’ve never been watched the show or the show and once the show started. That was the only reason. Like for me, I didn’t see it as an opportunity to miss graduation. It would have been worth it if I had to bet on the show but I didn’t go in there thinking ‘I’m a Geek beyond hope and I need these girls and I need a make-over.’”

Nevertheless, the makeover episode, where they went to the boulevard to make the photo, was a success. Matt is a favorite of such celebrities as Jack Black who has been watching the show, and for him, being on the show and the TV was new and cool. I watched a lot of TV and I wanted to see something different. And in a setting that I was going to have to be in for a week or two. I had a chance to learn what I wanted to learn from the experience. I went through the college experience.

“I’m a Geek beyond hope and I need these girls and I need a make-over.”

The other last word on being geeky.

Nobody does anything weird. There was this one girl who said that, but it wasn’t like a good scream. Like you think about the original scream, which is ‘Yes! Brad Pitt, and I’m walking down the street and people recognize me. You can think about that scream. Now imagine that you’re me, and you’re on the street and you don’t know how to act, but people recognize you—there’s going to be a different kind of scream.

“To my disappointment, he refused to re-embrace the scream.

One last word on being geeky

There was just one last question on being geeky. The last question on being almost an hour of chatting with Matt, but it was fairly sure he wouldn’t be offered.

Did he try to make himself more sexy? No. Not at all. I tried to be myself a little bit more, but the whole point was just to say what was important to me and how to adjust on the show.

“The third challenge where we had to get up on stage and prance around the runway, I was really very uncomfortable for me.” Matt said. “This is a new challenge for me. I was really nervous about when I was about to start doing the show and once the show started. Things that I’m not good at, that I have no interest in being good at. Like modeling, or selling myself based on looks and selling myself based on my coordination or athletic ability.” Another big question: “I’m not very intelligent. I’m not very intelligent. I’m not very intelligent.”

I’m sure most of us at MIT would have done just the same.
Neuroscience Professor Named New Picower Institute Director

By Swetha Kambhampati

Brain and Cognitive Sciences Professor Mark Bear was appointed director of the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory on Jan. 1. He succeeds Biology Professor Susumu Tonegawa, who stepped down as director at the end of last year after serving 12 years.

Bear will serve a one-year term as MIT searches for a permanent director, according to the MIT News Office.

Bear said that his first goal is to launch the Center for Neural Circuit Genetics, a new initiative that will focus on ways to study the contributions of specific neurons to brain function.

Another major goal is to secure “venture funding” for all PILM laboratories with priority given to faculty early in their careers.

There has been tension between PILM’s former director Tonegawa and other MIT faculty over the failed recruitment of a young female scientist to the Picower Institute for Brain Research, another neuroscience group at MIT. A report investigating the controversy criticized the competitive relationship between the research groups.

There are a lot of lessons to be learned and incorporated from the recent report investigating the neuropsyches at MIT, Bear said. The investigative committee is planning to release a modified version of the report.

Bear said that he hopes to improve communication and collaboration between the departments and research centers. “The success of McGovern is necessary for Picower, and vice versa,” Bear said. “We have already started collaborating in research projects and we hope to continue that in the future.”

Dean of Science Robert J. Silbey consulted with the neuroscience faculty to determine the new director. “We are very proud and happy to have Professor Bear as our next director,” Silbey said. “He is a well-known scientist, fine teacher, and has all the personal skills it takes to be the leader.”

“I’m honored,” Bear said. “Now I know what Harry Truman felt after Roosevelt died. Suddenly you’re thrust into a position of great responsibility and expectation.”

Bear, a Howard Hughes investigator, was a professor at the Brown University School of Medicine for 17 years prior to coming to MIT. He has written a number of books, including a popular introductory neuroscience textbook.

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20.104 Chemicals in the Environment: Epidemiology, Toxicology and Public Health
(Same subject as 1.081, ESD.053J)
William G. Thilly and Robert McCunney
thilly@mit.edu
mccunney@mit.edu
Prereq: 5.112 or 3.091, 7.01x
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 73-5 (56-180)

Relationships between exposure to occupational and environmental chemicals and radiation and risk of human disease. Analysis of U.S. historical data to delimit the historical timing of changes in environmental risk. Analysis of statewide community data to explore the concept of local environmental risks. Basic biochemistry and population genetics of inherited risk factors in drug metabolism, DNA repair and tumor suppression. Potential role of exogenous agents in tumor initiation and/or stimulation of pre-cancerous growth. New this spring: a series of occupational case studies presented by the former president of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and editor of the text “A Practical Approach to Occupational and Environmental Medicine.”

Nelnet Student Loan Company Will Keep Millions in Subsidies

By Jonathan D. Glatzer

The Bush administration reached an accord with a student loan company that will let it keep $278 million in subsidies that the inspector general of the Education Department found improper, the department said yesterday.

Under the agreement, the department will suspend future payments of more than $800 million, in addition to the $278 million paid to the company, Nelnet, until an audit determines whether the company was eligible for the money.

Nelnet had improperly exploited a subsidy program that guaranteed it 9.5 percent interest on loans. The guarantee was established in the 1980s, when interest rates were high, to keep lenders in the college-loan business.

The agreement, if approved by the Department of Justice, will ensure that taxpayer dollars are used properly,” Mr. Miller said in a statement.

Mike Dunlap, chairman and chief executive of Nelnet, of Lincoln, Neb., said the company had done nothing wrong.

“We are pleased to have reached a resolution that allows us to avoid costly litigation to determine the merits of our position,” Mr. Dunlap said.

The audit by the inspector general found that Nelnet had improperly exploited a subsidy program that guaranteed it 9.5 percent interest on loans.

The agreement was established in the 1980s, when interest rates were high, to keep lenders in the college-loan business.

Nelnet tried to rein in the program in 1993, but the loans balloonied as lenders found ways to increase their portfolio of loans that they said were eligible for the guarantee.

In September, the office of the Education Department inspector general said Nelnet, acting when interest rates were low, enlarged its portfolio of eligible loans to nearly $3.7 billion in June 2004, from $551 million in March 2003. The report found that the increased amount was ineligible to be billed under the 9.5 percent floor.

As of Dec. 31, Nelnet said it had $3 billion in loans it considered eligible for the 9.5 percent payments.

Nelnet is not the sole lender accused of using such techniques. The Education Department said it would stop paying claims from other lenders seeking subsidy payments until those claims had been audited.

In 2005, the inspector general found that a nonprofit loan company in New Mexico improperly exploited the subsidy program to obtain millions of dollars in overpayments. The lender, the New Mexico Education Assistance Foundation, was also allowed to keep the subsidy it had received.

The issue is politically charged. Democrats have in the past accused the Education Department of being lax in preventing lenders from exploiting the program, in part because of the administration’s connections with lenders. Nelnet officers and its political action committee have been major donors to Republicans.

The Education Department had said it was following policies that the Clinton administration had established. Democrats have made the loans a prime issue, focusing on soaring graduates’ increasing debt burdens.

For full class descriptions visit
http://mit.edu/firstyear/2010/explore/spring.html
Enrollment is limited with preference given to first-year students.

2.003J (16.003J)
Fundamentals of Elementary: Exploring Sea, Space and Earth
Great outdoor excursions, both, and cross-registration based projects.

2.00B
Ewing Real Problem
Students work in pairs or small groups to analyze real estate market trends, and products for use to developing countries.

4.001J (11.03J)
Cities and Destinations: New Orleans
Students explore the culture, history, and cuisine of the city through activities that include fieldwork and camp projects, and a spring break visit to New Orleans.

5.92 Energy, Environment and Society
Students design, develop and operate energy systems in projects that have the potential to affect local energy management.

HST.61O (6.07J)
Projects in Microgravity Engineering for the Life Sciences
Students learn about projects in space and biological technologies using microgravity technology.

21L.017 The Art of the Probable
Students examine a variety of issues related to the history of the idea of probability.

21M.016 Learning from the Past: Performance, Drama, Science
This seminar frames with 17L.016 and focuses on historical texts, students explore ancient Egyptian history.

21L.016 Learning from the Past: Drama, Science, Performance
This seminar frames with 17L.016 and focuses on historical and literary analysis, students explore political Europe in the 19th century.

The Tech is a national award-winning student newspaper published by students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). It is the official student newspaper of MIT. The Tech is published weekly during the academic year, except for holidays, and is distributed to students, faculty, and the general public. It provides coverage of campus events, student organizations, sports, and local and national news. The Tech is also available online at techonline.mit.edu. The Tech's editorial policy is established by the Editorial Board, a group of students elected by the student body. The Tech's mission is to provide students with a voice for their views, to promote the free exchange of ideas, and to serve as a vehicle for the expression of student opinion. The Tech is a non-profit organization and relies on student subscriptions and donations for funding. It is managed by a staff of students and supported by volunteers. The Tech is not affiliated with MIT and operates independently. The Tech has a strong tradition of covering political and social issues, and is known for its critical and investigative reporting. The Tech has won numerous awards for its coverage of campus events, student organizations, sports, and local and national news. It has been recognized for its role in reporting on important issues such as student activism, the student experience, and the relationship between students and administration. The Tech is an important voice on campus, and is respected for its commitment to free speech and independent journalism.
Princeton Chooses Not to Raise Tuition For Next Academic Year

By Karen W. Arenson

The New York Times

January 24, 2007

For the first time in 40 years, Princeton University will not raise tuition for the next academic year, the university announced yesterday. Tuition will remain $33,000, but room and board costs will jump.

University officials said that their strong investment performance last year — a return of almost 20 percent — helped clear the way for the decision, along with “generous” alumni donations and an increase in enrollment.

Officials said a decision by trustees to spend more of the endowment, which totaled about $13 billion in June, also helped. “We are aware of the concerns people have about the high cost of sending kids to college,” said Robert K. Duerk, vice president and secretary of the university.

Princeton said its tuition increases have been “at the bottom end of the university’s peer group” over the past 10 years.

Colleges and universities have faced sharp criticism from Congress and elsewhere in recent years because their tuition increases often outstrip inflation. The College Board said in an annual report that on average, tuition and fees had increased 5.9 percent, to $22,218, in the current academic year at private four-year campuses, and 6.5 percent, to $5,836, at public four-year colleges.

Although Princeton will not increase tuition, it said it will raise the price of room and board by 19 percent, to $10,990. That will increase the annual cost by 4.2 percent, to $43,980, for an undergraduate with a full meal contract.

Financial aid will be raised for students who qualify, officials said. Princeton will still be among the country’s most expensive colleges.

Solution to Sudoku

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Jan. 1 and Jan. 11, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuffles.

Jun. 3: M2 (32 Vassar St.), 1:54 p.m., Michael Benjiamen, Pine St. In, Boston, Mass. arrested by officer for trespass after notice.

Jun. 4: Fowler St., 7:55 p.m., Breaking and entering of motor vehicle, change stolen.

Jun. 5: W35 (540 Memorial Dr.), 12:11 a.m., Party outside yelling, routine check made.

Jun. 6: W206 (70 Pacific St.), 3 a.m., Reporting person reports that two males subjects are attempting to break into a motor vehicle on Pacific St., MIT Police responding all units clear. Cambridge Police Department has subjects in custody.

Jun. 7: M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 9:08 a.m., Pulled false fire alarm in Bldg 2.

Jun. 8: 7 Cambridge Center, 10:15 a.m., Report of suspicious package, checked out okay.

Jun. 9: E19 (400 Main St.), 11:56 a.m., Reports missing employee; last heard from at approximately 6 p.m.; missing party located at home residence by his hometown police department notifi ed and Massachusetts State Police enroute.

Jun. 10: NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 1:49 p.m., Missing key.

Jun. 11: W206 (70 Pacific St.), 1:49 p.m., Missing key.

For full class descriptions visit http://mit.edu/firstyear/2010/explore/spring.html. First year students are encouraged to register.
The Boston Consulting Group

invites all MIT juniors and Masters students to apply for the Summer Associate via MonsterTrak!

RESUME DROP DEADLINE:
Monday, JAN 29, 2007 AT 11:59 PM

Please remember that a complete application consists of:

* Resume
* Cover letter
* GPA
* Math/Verbal SAT scores
  * Copy of undergraduate transcript (unofficial is fine)
  * Top three office location preferences* — these may be written in your cover letter

*Note: The Boston and Miami offices do not offer summer Associate internships

BCG
www.bcg.com
Men’s Swimming Loses to Tufts Despite Racz Breaststroke Wins

Aquatics, from Page 20

yard butterfly (1:59.58) and the 400-yard individual medley (4:20.98).

Racz, who has impressed throughout his freshman season, lowered his NCAA “B” cut time in the 100-yard breaststroke for the second time this season. On this occasion, he clocked in at 58.24, earning the victory in the process. The Bratislava, Slovakia, native also led a 1-2 Tech finish in the 200-yard breaststroke, touching the wall first with a time of 2:09.22, while teammate Kalvin D. Kao ’08 followed up closely at 2:14.25.

The Engineers also notched a pair of relay victories, as both the 200-yard medley and the 400-yard freestyle. The medley team consisted of Edwards, Racz, Hu and Luke R. Cummings ’10, while the freestyle team was comprised of Edwards, Cummings, Jeffrey Y. Zhou ’10 and Peter J. Wellings ’09.

Tufts was led by Gregory Betten-court and Patrick Kinsella, who each picked up multiple victories. Betten-court finished first in the 200-yard freestyle (1:43.28), the 100-yard freestyle (47.90) and the 100-yard butterfly (52.60), while Kinsella won the 1000-yard freestyle (10:04.30) and the 500-yard freestyle (4:52.32).

The Engineers will return to the water on Saturday, January 27, when they travel to Amherst College to take on the Lord Jeffs in a meet that begins at 1:00 p.m. The Jumbos will next compete when they host Bates College and Wheaton College in a meet that is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m.

Meet-High 46 on Beam Not Enough For Tech

Gymnastics, from Page 20

rason was MIT’s top scorer, finishing second overall with a 9.375. The Engineers then moved on to the beam, where they racked up a team score of 46.00, best in the competition. Gillian S. Conahan ’10 put up a career-high 9.325, while Zimmerman (9.55) and Sarah N. Troubridge ’08 (9.525) nabbed MIT’s best scores. Zimmerman’s mark placed her second overall in the event.

Tech concluded its afternoon on the floor exercise, where Zimmerman (9.500) and Harrison (9.350) continued to be the Engineers’ most consistent competitors with solid scores to finish the event.

“Finishing on floor in your home gym seems to add to the hosting experience and our routines continue to be crowd pleasers,” said Miller-McEachern. “I haven’t left a meet yet where the judges and spectators haven’t complemented our unique and beautifully choreographed routines.”

The Engineers will look for their first win of the season on Sunday, Jan. 28, when they travel to Providence, R.I., to take on Brown University in a meet that is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m.

Diana Nee Shoots Well In Narrow Sunday Win

Pistol, from Page 20

Engineers were unchallenged but shot anyway. They scored 1,067 in the air portion and 1,585 in the sport portion. Nee led the way with a 169 in air while YunJa Chen ’07 shot a 550. Kendall M. Werts ’07 rounded out the group with a total of 541. Chen finished close behind with a score of 539 as Werts registered a 503.

In sport pistol, Nee paced the squad with a total of 541. Chen finished up a career-high 9.325, while Zimmerman (9.55) and Sarah N. Troubridge ’08 (9.525) nabbed MIT’s best scores. Zimmerman’s mark placed her second overall in the event.

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Track and Field Dominates Competition

This past Saturday the MIT men’s and women’s Track and Field teams participated in a meet against Westminster State College, Williams College, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The men’s team placed first overall, while the women’s team tied for first with Williams College.

(clockwise from left)
Eric M. Beecher ’10 soars over the bar in the high jump competition
Christine Fanchiang ’07 races through the 55 meter hurdles
Obina C. Anyamwua ’09 leaps into the sand pit during the long jump competition
Photography by William Yee

Meet-High 46 on Beam Not Enough For Tech

Gymnastics, from Page 20

rason was MIT’s top scorer, finishing second overall with a 9.375. The Engineers then moved on to the beam, where they racked up a team score of 46.00, best in the competition. Gillian S. Conahan ’10 put up a career-high 9.325, while Zimmerman (9.55) and Sarah N. Troubridge ’08 (9.525) nabbed MIT’s best scores. Zimmerman’s mark placed her second overall in the event.

Tech concluded its afternoon on the floor exercise, where Zimmerman (9.500) and Harrison (9.350) continued to be the Engineers’ most consistent competitors with solid scores to finish the event.

“Finishing on floor in your home gym seems to add to the hosting experience and our routines continue to be crowd pleasers,” said Miller-McEachern. “I haven’t left a meet yet where the judges and spectators haven’t complemented our unique and beautifully choreographed routines.”

The Engineers will look for their first win of the season on Sunday, Jan. 28, when they travel to Providence, R.I., to take on Brown University in a meet that is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m.

Diana Nee Shoots Well In Narrow Sunday Win

Pistol, from Page 20

Engineers were unchallenged but shot anyway. They scored 1,067 in the air portion and 1,585 in the sport portion. Nee led the way with a 169 in air while YunJa Chen ’07 shot a 550. Kendall M. Werts ’07 rounded out the group with a total of 541. Chen finished close behind with a score of 539 as Werts registered a 503.

In sport pistol, Nee paced the squad with a total of 541. Chen finished up a career-high 9.325, while Zimmerman (9.55) and Sarah N. Troubridge ’08 (9.525) nabbed MIT’s best scores. Zimmerman’s mark placed her second overall in the event.

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Men’s Volleyball Blanks Lesley, Elms in Uncontested Tri-Match

By Mindy Brauer
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Nationally-ranked No. 11 MIT defeated Elms College (30-21, 30-16, 30-18) and Lesley University (30-24, 30-11, 30-16) in a men’s volleyball tri-match on Saturday, with neither match ever closely contested. Elms recorded a 30-9, 30-20, 30-11 victory over Lesley in the second match of the day.

Against Elms, Praveen Pan-dimikakula ‘08 paced MIT (3-0, 1-0 NECCU New England) with 16 kills on 30 attempts with one error for a .714 hitting percentage to go along with eight digs and four blocks.

Michael Demyttenaere ‘10 connected on six of his seven attempts while posting a team-high six blocks in the second match.

Ivan Andujar collected 24 assists, nine digs, and one ace. Boursiquot posted 11 assists, eight digs, and three aces while Bousquet added 12 assists.

As a team, the Engineers tallied a .455 hitting percentage and 14 blocks.

The ‘Ems’ Byron Blidsoe led the Blazers (1-3) with nine kills, nine digs, and two aces as Brian Cunniff recorded three aces of his own.

Elms defeated Lesley also 3-0.

DAVID W. MURPHY—THE TECH

SPORTS

Gymnastics Loses Despite Efforts of Harrison, Zimmerman in Home Meet

By Jeff Lemieux
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

The University of Rhode Island’s Kelly Gurney won the all-around competition with a score of 38.075 to lead the Du: Is Rams to victory over MIT at Tech gymnastics’ home opening quad-meet on Saturday afternoon in the duPont gymnasium.

The Engineers scored 177.325 and placed last, well behind URI (184.500) but close to Cortland State University (179.325) and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (178.625).

Tech’s Julia C. Zimmerman ‘09 finished with the second best all-around score (37.600) for the second straight meet, while teammate Sophia L. Harrison ‘08 (16.200) was fourth, making the Engineers the only squad in the competition to have two team members gracing the top-five in the all-around.

The Cardinal and Gray began the day by sticking all six of its vaults, which head coach Jim Miller-McEachern called “a huge accomplishment this early in the year.” Laura E. Kelly ’09 impressed by notching an 8.925 with a brand new vault, while Zimmerman (9.300) and Kaitie M. Mango ’10 (9.000) were MIT’s top scorers in the event.

Bars were next, and for the first time this season, the Engineers were able to put up six competitors. The extra routine made all the difference, as Tech had what Miller-McEachern referred to as “the best team performance of the year.” Zimmerman contributed a solid 9.250, while Har- Praveen Pan-dimikakula ‘08 spikes the ball back to the Blazers’ side in Saturday’s 3-0 win over Elms College. The Engineers later defeated Lesley University 8-0.

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