

BU Dental No Longer Available For MIT Students

By Rosa Cao and Kimberly McManus

The Boston University Student Dental Plan will not be available to members of the MIT community this academic year. The plan had been the least expensive of the options available to students in the area and remains open to those enrolled in a number of other local colleges and universities. The Housing and Community Affairs subcommittee of the Graduate Student Council is exploring replacement options.

Paula K. Friedman, the dean responsible for enrollment and administration at the BUSDP, told Graduate Student Council President Leeland B. Ekstrom G that administrators chose not to enroll MIT students this year because they believed it was not "meeting the needs of MIT students," Ekstrom said.

According to information provided by Ekstrom, Friedman said that BU had received a number of complaints and cancellations from MIT students over the past year. Asked if the decision might be reversed, Friedman said that there would be the possibility of revisiting the issue in coming years, Ekstrom said. Friedman was not available for comment.

The BU student insurance plan cost \$240 last year and covered care including two cleanings, basic inspections, diagnostic X-rays, and some fillings. Root canals and more complex procedures were available at additional cost. MIT Medical offers its own full-care dental service; however, treatment is not covered by any of the MIT Student Health plans.

Deborah A. Boyd, patient accounts assistant at MIT Medical, said that the MIT Dental service provides about 12,000 visits a year, of which about 30 percent are graduate and undergraduate students.

In response to concern about the dental service's ability to handle an increase in volume this year, Boyd said, "We're not short-staffed. I don't anticipate it being difficult for anyone to get an appointment, especially if it's an emergency."

The GSC has been looking into solutions for student dental care for some years, but "now that the BU plan has been cancelled ... it's a top priority," said Tanguy M. Chau G, GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee co-chair. Among the options under consideration are negotiating access for MIT students to the Tufts or Harvard Student dental plans, or finding a way to insure students affordably at the MIT Dental Service. However, Chau stressed that all proposals are in preliminary

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Sodium Injures Five in Charles River Fire

Local Media Link Incident to MIT Sodium Drops; Relationship to MIT Unconfirmed

By Nick Semenkovich and Angeline Wang
STAFF REPORTERS

Five burn injuries from a boat fire on the Charles River last Thursday, Sept. 6, appear to have been caused by sodium, said Jake Wark, spokesperson for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Local media sources reported that the substance may have come from a sodium drop, a traditional MIT activity in which sodium is thrown into the Charles River so that students can watch its violent reaction with water.

A volunteer cleanup crew was working on the edge of the Charles River Thursday afternoon when they "retrieved an 8-inch piece of taffy-like substance," Wark said.

The crew, volunteers for the Charles River Cleanup Boat, then placed the sodium in a container with wet debris where it caught fire and exploded, Wark said.

"While further testing will be necessary for confirmation purposes," Wark said, "initial analysis by State Police chemists indicates that the substance recovered yesterday was sodium metal."

Two of the crew members suffered first- and second-degree burns, said Tom McNichol, president of the Charles River Cleanup Boat. McNichol said that one of the volunteers suffered burns on his face, arms, legs, and feet. "He's very uncomfortable right now," McNichol



TECH FILE PHOTO

Sodium's violent reaction upon contact with water is illustrated in this file photo from a sodium drop incident in 2003.

said. According to McNichol, three paramedics also suffered chemical burns while treating the volunteers. None of the injuries were life-threatening.

The Boston Globe reported that officials do not believe the sodium

was placed along the river with the intention of causing harm.

The sodium was found on the Boston side of the Charles River near the Massachusetts Avenue bridge at approximately 2 p.m. McNichol said that his crew found the substance

near the "granite steps by Gloucester Street."

While local media sources, namely WBZ-TV News, have linked the incident to the sodium drop, it is

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New Lobby 7 Exit Door A Chronic Problem

The new automatic door mechanism for Lobby 7 has had persistent problems since its installation on Aug. 21. The exit door seems to fail every few days. As of last week the door has been blocked and disabled. The failure is a result of a thermal overload in a relay that operates the door mechanism, and Facilities has been investigating temperature issues in the room that houses the control equipment.

News Brief

—John Hawkinson

President of GSC Speaks About Grad Student Life

Ekstrom Discusses Needs, Problems, Improvements

By JiHye Kim
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This is the sixth interview in a seven-part series introducing incoming students to some of MIT's faculty, staff, and student leaders. Today, The Tech interviews Leeland B. Ekstrom

G, president of the Graduate Student Council. Ekstrom talks about graduate student life and his plans for the GSC.

The Tech: What is your role at MIT?

Leeland Ekstrom: I am a PhD student and the president of the Graduate Student Council.

TT: What was your first impression of MIT?

LE: I came down in March of the spring before I was a student for part of the interview process for the [Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology]. There was a lot of construction going on at that time. The Stata Center was still in bits and pieces. My first impression was: Wow, there's a lot of renewal, growth

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ALEX CHAN—THE TECH

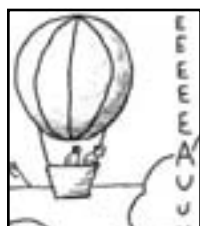
The Graduate Student Orientation featured MIT mascot Tim the Beaver, who is shown here rubbing the head of David R. Singerman G.

In Short

¶ The Forbes Family Café in the Stata Center now offers dinner service Monday through Thursday from 5–8 p.m.

¶ Subway in the Student Center extended its hours and will now be open daily from 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



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MIT holds community picnic on Killian Court

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WORLD & NATION

Wiretapping Led to German Arrests, Says Intelligence Head

By Eric Schmitt

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The government's ability to eavesdrop on suspected terrorists overseas allowed the United States to obtain information that led to the arrests last week of three Islamic militants accused of planning bomb attacks in Germany, said Mike McConnell, the director of national intelligence.

But a government official said that McConnell may have misspoken. McConnell said the information had been obtained under a newly updated and highly contentious surveillance law. But the official, who has been briefed on the eavesdropping laws and the information given to the Germans, said in fact that those intercepts were recovered under the previous law. The official asked for anonymity because the information is classified.

The previous law required officials to seek warrants to monitor at least some phone calls and e-mail messages between two foreign locations when they were collected from fiber-optic cable in the United States; the new law waived that requirement.

Poll Shows Giuliani's GOP Strengths and Weaknesses

By Marc Santora

and Dalia Sussman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Republican voters say Rudolph W. Giuliani has strong leadership qualities and they associate him closely with his handling of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but those impressions have not translated into a substantial advantage over his party's other presidential candidates when it comes to who can best fight terrorism, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

Nearly half of Republican primary voters in the poll did not know his position on abortion — he supports abortion rights — suggesting that he could be vulnerable among conservatives because of his positions on social issues. And many voters said that Giuliani's experience as mayor of New York City, which he consistently trumpets, limited his ability to understand their needs and concerns and was not as good a background for the presidency as having been a governor or a senator.

While the poll found that Giuliani faces some big challenges in winning his party's nomination, with 31 percent of self-identified Republican primary voters saying he does not share the values of most members of his party, it also suggested that he might be able to win over wary or unconvinced Republicans if he could make the case that he would be the candidate with the best chance of winning the general election.

Ex-Premier of Pakistan Arrested Upon His Return

By Carlotta Gall and Salman Masood

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

President Pervez Musharraf faced the prospect of fresh clashes with a newly independent Supreme Court after deporting Pakistan's former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, as he tried to return from exile on Monday.

Pakistan's military government moved harshly against Sharif, deporting him within four hours of his arrival and arresting almost the entire leadership of his party as they tried to travel to the airport to greet him.

The government action appeared to fly in the face of a recent Supreme Court ruling ordering that Sharif, 57, be allowed to return to Pakistan unhindered, and it immediately ignited street protests among Sharif's supporters.

Sharif, 57, a bitter rival of Musharraf, who ousted him in a coup in 1999, has spent much of his last seven years in exile in Saudi Arabia under an agreement to leave Pakistan for 10 years in return for having his jail sentences for corruption and hijacking commuted.

Top U.S. Commander Warns Against Hurried Iraq Pullout

By David E. Sanger and David S. Cloud

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Gen. David H. Petraeus, the senior U.S. commander in Iraq, warned in stark terms against the kind of rapid pullback favored by the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, in a day of testimony that drove home the continuing inability of the Democrats to force a change in strategy in Iraq.

The general's appearance on Monday in the cavernous Cannon Caucus room, the scene of past confrontations between Congress and the White House, cracked at various points with partisan tension, and his testimony was interrupted repeatedly by shouting protesters who were quickly escorted from the room.

"The situation in Iraq remains complex, difficult and sometimes downright frustrating," Petraeus said, as he began two days of highly anticipated appearances before Congress. "I also believe that it is possible to achieve our objectives in Iraq over time, although doing so will be neither quick nor easy."

The hearings had been expected

to provoke an epic confrontation between opponents of the war and its front-line leaders. But that conflict did not fully materialize on Monday, in part because only a few Democrats on two House committees seemed inclined to dispute with much vigor the assessments provided by a commander with medals on his chest and four stars on his shoulders.

Still, the proceedings put Petraeus and Ryan C. Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, in the unusual position of appealing directly to lawmakers for more time to allow their efforts to work, even as Democrats have made clear that they have little remaining faith in that strategy.

Petraeus said he believed that the United States was meeting most of its military objectives in Iraq. He said he had recommended to President Bush a timetable that would include withdrawal by next July, slightly ahead of schedule, of the nearly 30,000 additional troops that Bush has sent to Iraq since January.

But the general also warned that the situation in Iraq remained too fragile to undertake the major shift in mission and more rapid troop reductions that Democrats in the

House and Senate have sought. The plan he outlined would still leave a main body of at least 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq next summer, and he said it would be premature to discuss a timetable for further withdrawals beyond those he outlined.

Though many lawmakers praised Petraeus' service, several Democrats among a joint panel composed of the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services committees dismissed his testimony as a White House publicity stunt.

In his testimony, Petraeus declared that his statements were his own, and had not been drafted or approved by the White House or the Pentagon. He will appear before two Senate committees on Tuesday, and Bush is expected to say in a speech later this week that he is accepting his top commander's recommendations.

But Democratic leaders made clear that they intended to continue their fight. They pointed out that the recommendations from Petraeus embraced only modest adjustments in troop levels and no immediate strategy shift, even though the White House had built up the September review as a major re-evaluation of its Iraq policy.

Suicide Bomber in Afghanistan Kills Afghan Civilians, Policemen

By David Rohde

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

In one of the deadliest suicide attacks in Afghanistan this year, at least one suicide bomber killed at least 26 Afghans, half of them civilians, in a crowded market in southern Afghanistan on Monday night, Afghan officials said.

One bomber walked up to a truck full of policemen in one of the main markets in the town of Gereskh, Helmand Province, and detonated his explosive, said Abdul Manaf, the Gereskh district chief. The bomb or bombs killed 13 policemen and 13 pedestrians. At least two dozen other people were wounded. "The bodies were burned beyond recognition," Manaf said.

The attack came two days after the United Nations said 103 suicide bombings had been carried out in Af-

ghanistan in the first eight months of 2007, a 69 percent increase over the same period last year. The report said suicide attacks are on a pace to exceed the record 123 bombings carried out in 2006.

Monday's death toll appeared to be higher than an attack in Kabul in June, when a suicide attacker boarded a bus carrying Afghan police trainers and detonated a bomb, killing 24 people and wounding 35 others. More than 225 people have died in bombings this year, according to Afghan and U.N. officials. Last year, 305 died.

In Gereskh, investigators were trying to determine whether more than one bomb had been set off, given the number of people killed. Officials found a suicide vest and the bomber's partial remains at the scene, but no evidence of a car bomb.

"We don't really understand,"

Manaf said. "We just have a vest and a pair of legs."

Afghanistan experienced the second highest number of suicide bombings in the world in 2006 and so far in 2007, according to Mohammed Hafiz, a political science professor at the University of Missouri who tracks suicide bombings. He said Afghanistan trailed only Iraq, which had 322 suicide bombings this year through the end of August, and 179 in all of 2006.

A former Taliban commander told U.N. investigators that half of suicide bombers had been foreigners and that "almost all undergo some form of training and preparation in madrasas based in Pakistan," the report said.

"Over 80 percent of suicide attackers pass through recruitment, training facilities or safe houses in North or South Waziristan en route to their targets inside Afghanistan," it added.

WEATHER

So Long Summer

By Garrett P. Marino

Although technically not yet autumn, temperatures over the foreseeable future will certainly make it feel like the fall season. Contrast this to just a few days ago when Logan tied a record high of 95°F, previously set way back in 1872. A cold front moved through early Sunday morning, bringing substantially cooler and somewhat drier air with its passage. The weekend also saw a weak Tropical Storm Gabrielle brush the North Carolina coast with mainly light rain and some gusty winds. Cape Hatteras recorded a top wind speed of 53 mph. Now a tropical depression, Gabrielle is currently racing off to the northeast and passed about 200 miles south of Nantucket last night.

Today, we will have a low pressure system move by to our north, bringing the likelihood of afternoon and evening showers and possibly a thunderstorm. After the cold front passes Tuesday evening, skies should clear and the air will be notably drier, setting the stage for magnificent late summer weather for the remainder of the workweek. A cold front will approach on Saturday bringing our next chance of precipitation.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with showers and thunderstorms likely in the afternoon. Highs near 70°F (21°C).

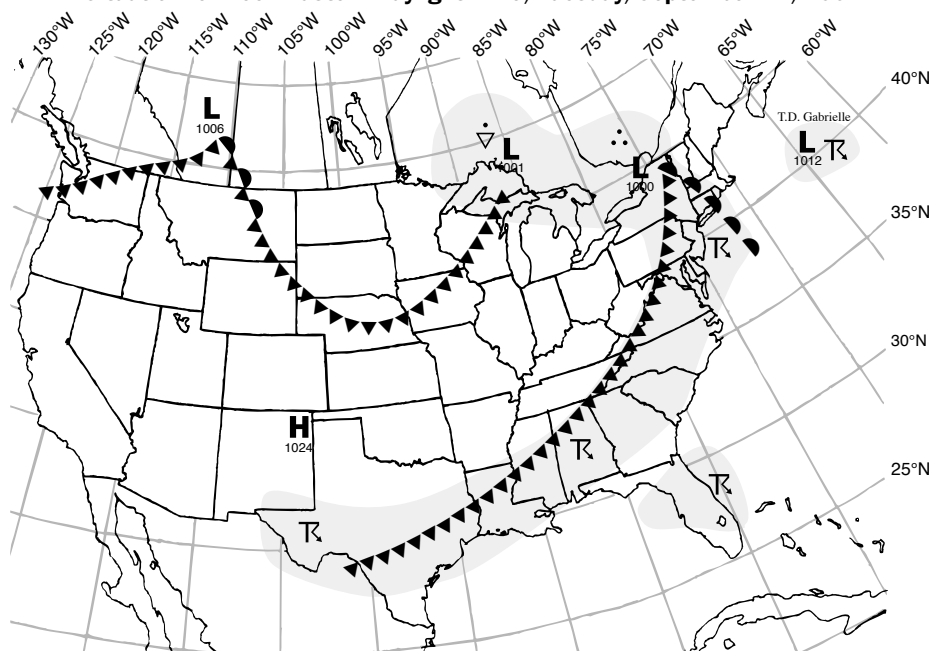
Tonight: Showers early with clearing skies late. Lows near 60°F (16°C).

Tomorrow: Sunny and breezy. Highs in the mid 70s°F (24°C).

Tomorrow night: Clear. Lows in the mid 50s°F (13°C).

Thursday: Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s°F (20°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, September 11, 2007



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	—••• Warm Front	Rain ∇	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Light *	Haze
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Moderate **	
		Heavy ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Sept. 11 Commemoration Moved Away From Ground Zero to Park

By Diane Cardwell
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

The planning for Tuesday's commemoration of the 2001 terror attacks had become a seemingly familiar standoff. On one side was a vocal core of victims' relatives threatening to hold their own event because the ceremony would, for the first time, take place not at ground zero but across the street, at Zuccotti Park. On the other, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, accused by the relatives of insensitivity, was holding firm that it was unsafe to allow mourners at what was now an active construction site.

The mayor and the families agreed to a compromise: the ceremony would be held at the park but relatives would still be allowed to descend to the pit where their loved ones perished.

When he took over as mayor in 2002, Bloomberg threw himself into fixing the many pressing problems wrought by the attacks: shoring up the security of a city suddenly at the center of a bull's-eye; closing the gaping hole in the midst of Lower Manhattan; bolstering a sinking

economy suffering the loss of thousands of jobs.

But the mayor has also played an essential if more subtle role in nudging the city to gradually let go of its grief. It is a challenge the mayor has handled sometimes clumsily and sometimes with great sensitivity and eloquence, as he charted the path away from the concrete events of 2001. Now, as he works to imbue the city with optimism for the future, he even hints at a day when remembering may not mean reading the names of all the dead.

"You're going to have to change to keep it relevant," Bloomberg said at a news conference Monday when asked about the fact that one television network had originally planned not to broadcast the entire ceremony, which exceeds four hours. "I've never been a believer that doing the same thing every time is the best way to accomplish anything."

Indeed, Bloomberg, who spurns dwelling on the past and prefers to keep his emotions to himself, has been pushing the city from the start to move beyond its tragedy. Early on, he championed building schools

and housing at ground zero and suggested that the soaring memorial envisioned by his predecessor, Rudolph W. Giuliani, would turn it into "a cemetery" and drive residents and businesses away.

Bloomberg, who declined to be interviewed for this article, told The New York Times the day before the first anniversary of the attacks: "I think the Jews do it right. They have a headstone unveiling a year after the funeral, and that's sort of the time that you sort of stop the mourning process and start going forward. And the 9/11 ceremonies, what I'm trying to do is that in the morning we will look back, remember who they were and why they died. And in the evening come out of it looking forward and say, 'OK, we're going to go forward.'"

In recent months, that campaign has become more urgent as Bloomberg has taken a more active role in accelerating development at the site, stepping in to break the logjams, muscling his way through the opposition with a conviction that his priorities — getting the project done, leaving a legacy for the future — and values are the right ones.

Petraeus in Support of Proposal Reducing No. of U.S. Troops in Iraq

By Michael R. Gordon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Under the timetable embraced on Monday by Gen. David H. Petraeus, the number of American combat brigades would decline by one-fourth by next summer, from 20 now to 15 in July, with the prospect of deeper, if as yet unscheduled, reductions to come.

But such a move would raise the question of how the United States can avert an increase in violence in Iraq while carrying out a gradual drawdown. One approach embraced by many lawmakers would be to modify the American mission to emphasize the training and advising of Iraqi security forces so that Iraqis would be pushed into the lead and the vast majority of American combat troops could be quickly withdrawn.

This proposal, which was offered last year by the Iraq Study Group, the bipartisan panel chaired by Lee H. Hamilton and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, has appealed to many Democrats and some Republicans who are looking

to achieve a measure of stability in Iraq while shrinking the role of the American military.

But in his testimony on Monday, Petraeus offered a very different vision. He proposed an American presence that would not only be longer and larger than many Democrats have advocated but would also provide for a greater American combat role in protecting the Iraqi population.

Redefining the American mission to focus primarily on training Iraqi forces and conducting commando raids against terrorists, Petraeus said, would be "premature."

"We have learned before that there is a real danger in handing over tasks to the Iraqi security forces before their capability and local conditions warrant," he added.

The American commander was not only rebuffing the demand for a firm timeline for withdrawing the bulk of American forces, he was also putting critics on notice that even when reductions come he has a different vision of the manner in which many of the remaining troops would be used.

Petraeus is not the only one who has offered such cautions. The National Intelligence Estimate, which was issued last month, made a similar point — and Petraeus made a point of quoting from it in his testimony Monday.

"We assess that changing the mission of coalition forces from a primarily counterinsurgency and stabilization role to a primary combat support role for Iraqi forces and counterterrorist operations to prevent A.Q.I. from establishing a safe haven would erode security gains achieved thus far," the estimate noted. A.Q.I. is the acronym the intelligence agencies use to refer to al-Qaida of Mesopotamia, a predominantly Iraqi organization with foreign leadership.

In his testimony Monday, Petraeus presented charts on suicide-bombing trends, sectarian killings, civilian deaths, roadside bombings and arms caches discovered. Though acknowledging that the road ahead would be difficult, he asserted that the United States so far had largely achieved its military goals to tamp down sectarian violence.

U.S. Citizen Sentenced 24 Years Prison Time For Crimes Related to Terrorism

By Carolyn Marshall
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

A California man convicted last year of aiding terrorists and lying to the FBI was sentenced on Monday to 24 years in prison.

The man, Hamid Hayat, an American citizen of Pakistani descent, was solemn and attentive in court on what was his 25th birthday. He showed little reaction as an assistant translated the proceedings and stern words of Judge Garland E. Burrell Jr. of U.S. District Court into Urdu.

"Hamid Hayat attended a terrorist training camp," Burrell said, "and returned to the United States, ready and willing to wage violent jihad when directed to do so, regardless of the havoc such acts could wreak on persons and property in the United States, and then lied to the FBI on three separate occasions."

He added that the evidence "suggested a likelihood of recidivism and an unlikelihood of rehabilitation."

Hayat faced up to 39 years in prison after a jury convicted him on April 25, 2006, of one count of pro-

viding material support to terrorists and three counts of making false statements to the FBI on international terrorism.

Hayat's lawyers filed an appeal to void the convictions less than an hour after sentencing. The appeals lawyer said there had been jury misconduct, the exclusion of vital witnesses' testimony and conflict of interest for Hayat's trial lawyer.

The trial lawyer, Wazhma Mojaddidi, and the appeals lawyer, Dennis Riordan, say Hayat is innocent of all charges.

"My client is obviously upset," Mojaddidi said. "He has already served two years for a crime he did not commit."

Family members at the sentencing included Hayat's father, Umer Hayat, 49, an ice cream vendor involved in a related case. Umer Hayat also expressed disappointment, repeatedly saying his son was innocent.

"This is a sad day for us," the father said, "but I am very confident he will get out on appeal. He is innocent. We did not get justice. Justice was not served."

The father and son, residents of Lodi, a farming town with a large Muslim population, were arrested in June 2005.

Federal authorities were in the middle of a lengthy undercover investigation of Muslims. Hamid Hayat was arrested on returning from Pakistan, where, FBI agents said, he trained at a terrorist camp sometime between October 2003 and November 2004 and lied to the bureau when asked about it.

Umer Hayat was arrested and charged with financing part of the son's trip and lying to agents. He pleaded guilty to lesser charges and was eventually released for time served.

Although the timing of the sentencing on Monday was coincidental, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of California, McGregor W. Scott, invoked the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We now stand on the eve of the sixth anniversary of that terrible day," Scott said.

He added that there had been no terrorism attacks in the United States since then.

Hedge Funds See Opportunity in Chinese Surveillance Companies

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SHENZHEN, CHINA

Li Runsen, the powerful technology director of China's ministry of public security, is best known for leading Project Golden Shield, China's intensive effort to strengthen police control over the Internet.

But last month Li took an additional title: director for China Security and Surveillance Technology, a fast-growing company that installs and sometimes operates surveillance systems for Chinese police agencies, jails and banks, among other customers. The company has just been approved for a listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

The company's listing and Li's membership on its board are just the latest signs of ever-closer ties among Wall Street, surveillance companies and the Chinese government's security apparatus.

Wall Street analysts now follow the growth of companies that install surveillance systems providing Chinese police stations with 24-hour video feeds from nearby Internet cafes. Hedge fund money has paid for the development of not just better video cameras, but face-recognition software and even newer behavior-recognition software.

Now, the growing ties between China's surveillance sector and American capital markets are starting to draw Washington's attention.

Death Sentence Is Upheld, Though Jury Checked Bible

By Adam Liptak

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The federal appeals court in San Francisco on Monday upheld a death sentence from a jury that had consulted the Bible's teachings on capital punishment.

In a second decision on the role of religion in the criminal justice system, the same court ruled Friday that requiring a former prisoner on parole to attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous violated the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion.

In the capital case, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals split 9-6 on the question of whether notes, including Bible verses prepared by the jury's foreman and used during sentencing deliberations, required reversal of the death sentence imposed on Stevie L. Fields in 1979.

Fields, on parole after serving time for manslaughter, committed a series of rapes, kidnappings and robberies, and murdered Rosemary Cobbs, a student librarian at the University of Southern California.

After the jury convicted Fields and while it was deliberating his sentence, the foreman, Rodney White, conducted outside research, consulting several reference works and preparing a list of pros and cons on the death penalty that he shared with fellow jurors. On the pro side, he quoted passages from the Bible, including this one from Exodus: "He that smiteth a man, so that he dies, shall surely be put to death."

FAA Urges Pilots to Use A Digital Transmitter

By Steve Friess

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LAS VEGAS

The type of beacon on the plane flown by Steve Fossett, the millionaire adventurer, when he disappeared last week, emits false signals 98 percent of the time, the Federal Aviation Administration has concluded.

As a result, after Feb. 1, 2009, the FAA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will no longer monitor signals from these devices, the agencies said in a memorandum issued on Friday.

The devices, known as electronic locator transmitters, or ELTs, have been standard in aircraft for decades, but the agencies have concluded that the older models, which operate at a frequency of 121.5 megahertz, are antiquated and unreliable. Furthermore, the analog frequency that the beacons use is often trespassed accidentally by radio signals emitted by other devices, including some stadium scoreboards and video arcade equipment, said Lt. Jeffrey Shoup of NOAA.

The authorities have not picked up any signals from Fossett's plane, which vanished on Sept. 3 in northern Nevada.

After February 2009, planes with old ELTs will have to rely on their distress signals being picked up by planes flying overhead, rather than by the satellites that monitor such signals.

The FAA is urging — but not requiring — plane owners to switch to the digital transmitters that emit a signal 20 times stronger at 406 MHz, to be spotted by satellites. The newer ELTs transmit identification numbers that the authorities know and can use to quickly contact the owners to determine if there is a real distress.

Road Accident in Mexico Kills 37 in Huge Explosion

By James C. McKinley, Jr.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MEXICO CITY

At least 37 people were killed and scores injured late Sunday night when a truck carrying explosives blew up after crashing into a pickup truck and catching fire, state and federal authorities said.

The victims included three local reporters, four paramedics, three police officers and more than a score of residents of the nearby village of Celamania. All were looking at the burning wreckage of the two vehicles when an enormous explosion ripped them apart and left a crater 15 feet deep and 60 feet across, officials said.

"The tractor-trailer turned over and started to burn," Jesus Torres Charles, the Coahuila State attorney general, explained in a radio interview. "When rescuers arrived, along with a local police unit and three local reporters, the explosion occurred."

Fausto Destenave Kuri, the state secretary of public security, said in a separate radio interview that the truck had been carrying more than 50,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate, an explosive used in the mining industry. The driver was trucking the explosive from the town of Cuatro Ciénegas toward the border to deliver it to a company identified as Takata, the federal police said.

Later in the day, Takata put out a statement denying the shipment was theirs.

OPINION



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Corrections

A photo of LaVerde's Market on page 1 of the Sept. 7, 2007 issue of *The Tech* was credited to the wrong photographer. The photo was taken by Sherry Yan '11, not Alex Chan G. An Aug. 27, 2007 review of "The Bourne Ultimatum" misspelled the name of the CIA agent played by Joan Allen. Allen's character is Pamela Landy, not Pam Landry.



Nukes over America



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Angeline Wang, Managing Editor Austin Chu, and Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

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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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CAMPUS LIFE

Scott's Travels

The Hitchhiker's Guide to Mongolia (How Not to Do It)

By James Scott Berdahl

STAFF COLUMNIST

After having given up on our horses mid-journey, my adventurous acquaintance Will and I found ourselves standing alone on a remote dirt road in the Mongolian countryside. As we weren't sure how long we'd have to wait, be it minutes or days, we were quite relieved when an old Russian minivan shortly came chugging around from behind a hillside and into view.

We stuck out our hands with our palms down, our fingers pumping air towards ourselves, as is the custom for hitching a ride in such corners of the world. The van skidded to a stop, but, to my dismay, it was completely full of people of all ages and their gear. Not to worry though; I guess I'd forgotten where we were. There still seemed to be a few cubic feet of unoccupied space in the vehicle, and so for a nominal fee, the driver wedged us in, cramming me in next to the window with my bag on my lap and me on the lap of a complete stranger. Will was not so lucky; his bag was thrown overtop of an old man while he was awkwardly positioned over the scorching metal of the engine cover.

The van pushed off again, bumping violently along the road at speeds that seemed incredible after nearly a week of travel on Mongolia's two slowest horses. Before long, the grassy hills of the passing countryside gave way to the Hangay Nuruu Mountains of Central Mongolia, stained blood red with the mosses of fall.

As we careened around corners and I glanced uneasily down into a deep gorge at the road's edge, Will twisted awkwardly to glance uneasily at his bag. Mongolia isn't the worst country out there in terms of petty theft, but people are people, and so it's always unnerving to be separated so helplessly from your livelihood. The old man answered Will's glance

with a blank stare, then, without breaking eye contact, he casually probed his finger up his nose, fished around for a few moments, and withdrew a giant visible from across the van. As it was the closest surface available, the old man proceeded to wipe said giant across Will's backpack, nonchalantly smacking his lips and breaking eye contact as though nothing out of the ordinary had transpired.

We emerged that afternoon in a little town called Tariat, a picturesque bricolage of small wooden houses and dusty alleyways nestled amongst the backdrop of the nation's largest volcanic peaks. It was September now; back home my friends were starting classes again,

*Before long, the grassy hills
of the passing countryside
gave way to the Hangay
Nuruu Mountains of
Central Mongolia.*

but for the first time in 15 years, I wouldn't be joining them. Such a shame, I thought to myself over the next few days, as I relaxed by the still waters of a volcanic lake, playing my travel guitar and admiring the fall colors.

Eventually though we moved on, pushing further west. A similarly crowded van took us to the regional capital of Uliastai, and from there we found a ride headed across the vast plains to Khovd. Things started off well enough on that trip, five of us in a small Jeep, headed west. But then things quickly deteriorated, as things are known to do.

Half an hour from Uliastai, we stopped at a fork. The driver and his wife yelled at each other for a time, gesturing frantically in oppos-

ing directions. The other fellow, in the back with Will and me, piped in, yelling and gesturing frantically first down one road, then down the next. Will offered his map, which the driver snatched enthusiastically to make his point. His wife then snatched the map from him, presumably to make a counterpoint of some sort. The fellow from the back leaned forward to contribute his bit, and soon the map lay in two pieces by the gearshift. Angrily, the driver jerked the vehicle into gear, and we sped off down the road of his choice.

This process was repeated an unsettling number of times throughout the day, and as we progressed through lush river valleys dotted here and there with gers, gnarled old trees and yaks, the roads progressively became less and less defined. Eventually, the thin set of tracks we followed vanished into the pebbly earth, and we entered onto the plains. From there we simply drove west, picking our way around obstacles and over hills as we went. For hours, there was nothing, no gers, no water, just us. To the south, we caught sight of the rolling dunes of the northern Gobi desert. Will and I glanced around the old jeep uneasily; there was only a small jug of water, and no extra gas, nor was there a needle on the gas gauge. The day wore on.

Finally, after having half-jokingly agreed upon the order in which we'd have to eat our companions in the event of a breakdown, Will and I caught sight of a small settlement, a group of gers around a small brick hut. And there was a river!

We stopped there for dinner as a thin sliver of moon chased the sun from the sky, and the eerie wail of an unseen group of camels drifted in through the gloaming on the cool desert wind. This, I decided, is what it must feel like to travel to another planet. Whether or not we'd make it back, though, was anyone's guess.

God, Are You Out There?

(On the Intertubes?)

By Charles Lin

I was having an existential crisis the other day, so I decided to seek help. Naturally, I knew where to turn.

To: God@gmail.com

Subject: Hi

Message:

Dear God,

Who, what, why, when, and where are you?

Also, can Laura have a pony?

—Charles

I immediately received a delivery failure message. Figuring that I wasn't being broad enough with my queries, I sent out e-mails to Jesus@gmail.com, Zeus@gmail.com, Odin@gmail.com, Ahuramazda@gmail.com, and Xipe.totec@gmail.com (the Aztec god of flaying). Only Ahuramazda and Xipe got my messages. Jesus must've been out of the office or something, or maybe St. Peter runs his spam filter.

My inability to connect with the higher powers of my choosing greatly disheartened me. No offense Xipe, but I really wanted to have a heart-to-heart with the big man upstairs. Then it occurred to me. The reason God@gmail.com didn't exist was because Google didn't want God@gmail.com to exist. If you look at their account creation page, they stipulate: "Sorry, your username must be between 6 and 30 characters long." Now this excludes all of the Western gods; Zeus, God, Jesus, Allah, and Odin are all out of luck. But Eastern gods like Vishnu and Buddha, they could have

Gmail accounts if they wanted.

Why would Google discriminate against Western religion? Was Google simply trying to exert its power? Having fulfilled the three requirements of a minor deity (omniscience, omnipotence, whimsical humor), was Google aching for more?

I decided to take them to task on this and posted a mean message on Google's message board.

RE: WHY Does Google HATE Western religion?!?!?!?!?

*Having fulfilled the three
requirements of a minor deity
(omniscience, omnipotence,
whimsical humor), was Google
aching for more?*

One holy flame war later, I had my answer.

From Google Support: "We've discovered that short usernames at popular domains receive significantly more spam since they're easy to automatically generate. Gmail's requirement that all usernames be at least six characters in length is meant to keep spam out of your inbox."

There it was. It's not that Google hates God; it's just that Google's looking out for God. They don't want God's inbox to be filled with pre-

scription drug offers or free Harvard diplomas. Whew, was I reassured.

This meant of course that God had to come up with another handle for his Gmail account. And who am I to attempt to figure out God's nickname and favorite number combination? I wasn't about to throw out random e-mails to alphaandomega@gmail.com or manupstairs@gmail.com. For all I know, those probably belong to overweight hackers and I don't think Laura would be pleased if they found out she wanted a pony. The last thing I wanted was an e-mail back saying,

Re: Hi

No pony for you!! Pwned!

—0n3 7ru3 g0d

Nobody wants to get Pwned over a pony.

But I was still left feeling empty inside since my e-mails had gone unanswered. I thought back to my training and youth. If God can hear us when we mutter to ourselves at night then surely he can read e-mails. I just had to show a little faith, maybe put one foot out there and take a leap. A leap of faith ... And then it hit me. My missives shouldn't be flung out into the wind haphazardly. I knew exactly where to send my e-mails! Thanks to a certain tenured history professor, I know for a fact that in English, Jehovah starts with a J.

I wrote out a new e-mail to Jehovah@gmail.com and BCC'd theholyspirit@gmail.com. I just hope they get WiFi in heaven.

If you too are looking to reach a higher power, e-mail chazlin@mit.edu.

Rants & Raves

I realize that there are some instances when people need to take the elevator to only go a couple floors — like, if they are in wheelchairs or have some sort of foot/ankle/knee injury. Taking the elevator is also acceptable if there are no nearby stairs. However ...

About a week ago I was on the sixth floor of Baker getting some papers I printed off on Bricks, and on the way back down two girls got on at the fifth floor and off at the fourth. I don't care if you live right next to the elevator ... the stairs are not that far, and a normal healthy person never needs to take an elevator to go down one story! Later that same day, I saw my friend crutch up three flights of stairs because she didn't want to go all the way down the hall to the elevator. It shouldn't be possible to live in a world where an injured person is willing to rough it up the stairs for three floors and two completely normal people need an elevator to get down one.

One of my latest elevator experience takes the cake, though. I normally don't take the elevator up to my room because I only live on the third floor ... but I was coming back from helping my friends move into their new apartment, so I felt justified in taking the elevator after having hauled boxes and mattresses and whatnot from the UHaul upstairs to the apartment. Usually I hate taking the elevator with other people, because invariably they live on the fifth or sixth floors, and I feel like a jerk being on the elevator to only go up to the third. So, when another girl got on the elevator with me, I was preparing for my inward cringe of guilt when the girl leaned over and pressed number one. She was taking the elevator from the lobby to the first floor. What the hell??

For those of you not familiar with my dormitory, the ground floor, lobby, and first floors are split levels. That is, the ground floor is directly beneath the first floor, and the lobby is in between. There are something like seven stairs between the lobby and the first floor ... it's half a freaking flight, you can see the first floor from the lobby. This girl was **not** in a wheelchair or on crutches or injured or disabled in any visible manner. She walked normally. She was *not* carrying anything heavy or unwieldy. She had what appeared to be a mostly empty backpack, and *that was it*. She didn't even so much as *limp* for my benefit! I didn't say anything, although I very much wish I had ... I didn't recover from the shock quickly enough to get any words out before she stepped off the elevator. I don't think the elevator even had time to reach its cruising velocity before it had to slow to a stop.

I tried to think of a scenario that could explain this girl's behavior. Maybe she's a freshman and didn't know ... only the freshmen have been here for ages, and anyway if you're an MIT student, you should be able to figure out that the first floor is pretty close to ground. Maybe she was visiting someone ... I mean, she piggybacked behind me on the way in: there was no card-swipe. But if you were visiting someone who lived on the first floor ... why would you head to the elevator? So the only conclusion I could possibly come to was that this girl is, in fact, the laziest person in the history of the universe. Or, possibly, insane.

In summation, seriously, stairs won't kill you. Take them if you're only going up a floor. It should go without saying that going down stairs takes very little effort at all ... and if you are going to decide to be ridiculously lazy and end up sharing the elevator with other, less lazy people, fake a limp or *something* for our benefit. Even if we probably will realize that you faked it, it shows that you are conscious of your actions and perhaps feel a little guilty for having taken up our time.

—Clara Bennett '10

Are you angry or pleased with something you see around you? Write to "Rants & Raves" at cl@tech.mit.edu.



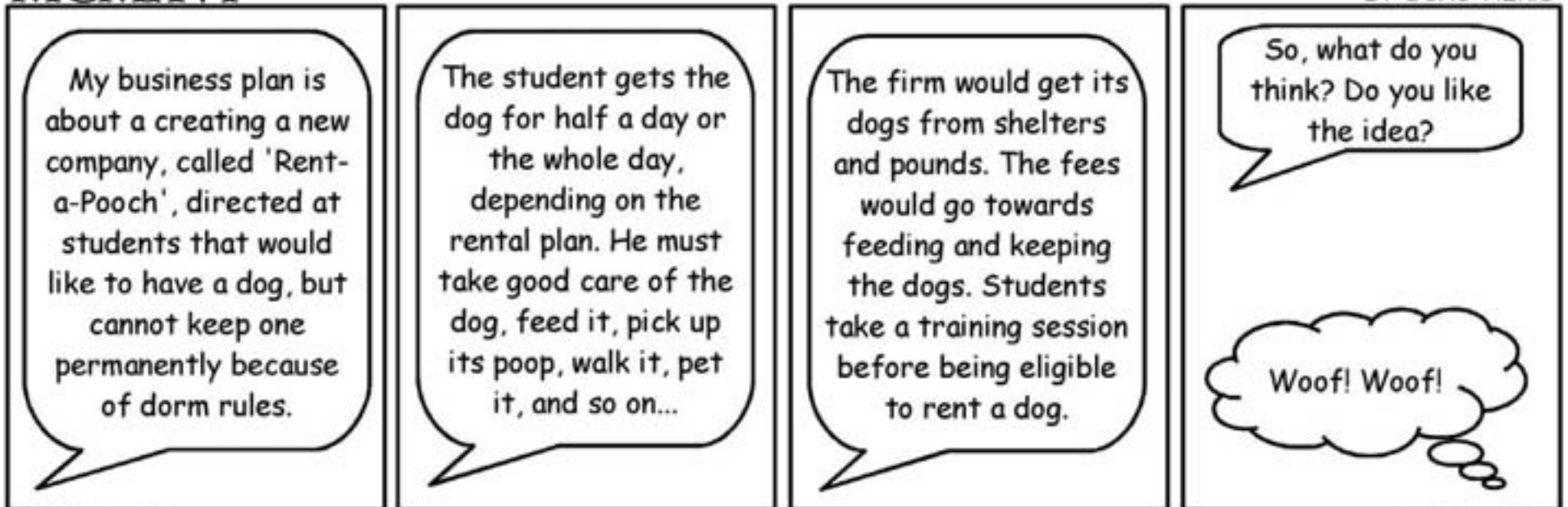
Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us!

Write for Campus Life. join@tech.mit.edu

MCMXVI

BY JOÃO REKIS

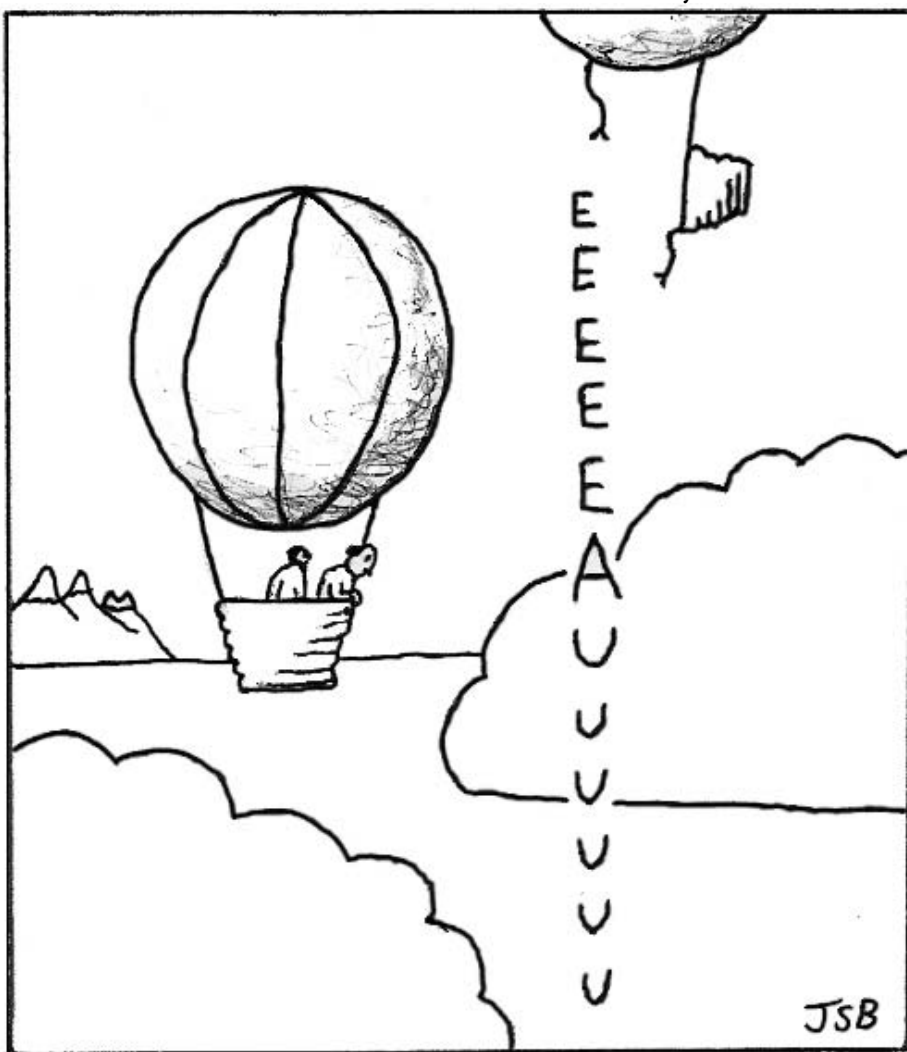


2007-SEP-08

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Mad Science

by Scott Berdahl

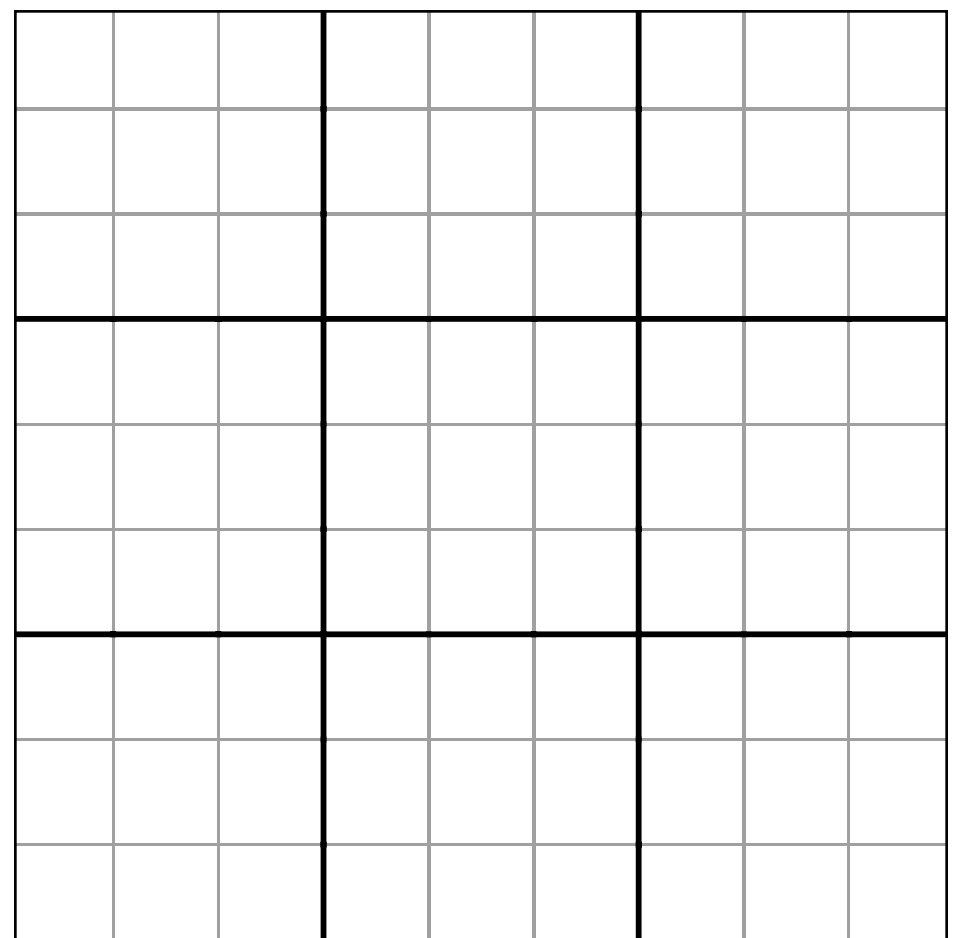


The untimely death of Mr. Christian Doppler

su | do | ku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 12.

© Puzzles by Pappocom



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

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 19

ACROSS

- 1 Suppositions
- 4 Open _!
- 10 Does things
- 14 Bus. bigwig
- 15 Glib speech
- 16 Make small talk
- 17 Land of the free
- 18 Some arcade games
- 19 Zany Imogene
- 20 Norman Greenbaum hit
- 23 Decorate differently
- 24 Org. concerned with cryptology
- 25 An Astaire
- 26 Minneapolis suburb
- 28 Given sanctuary
- 30 Arrive via Greyhound

DOWN

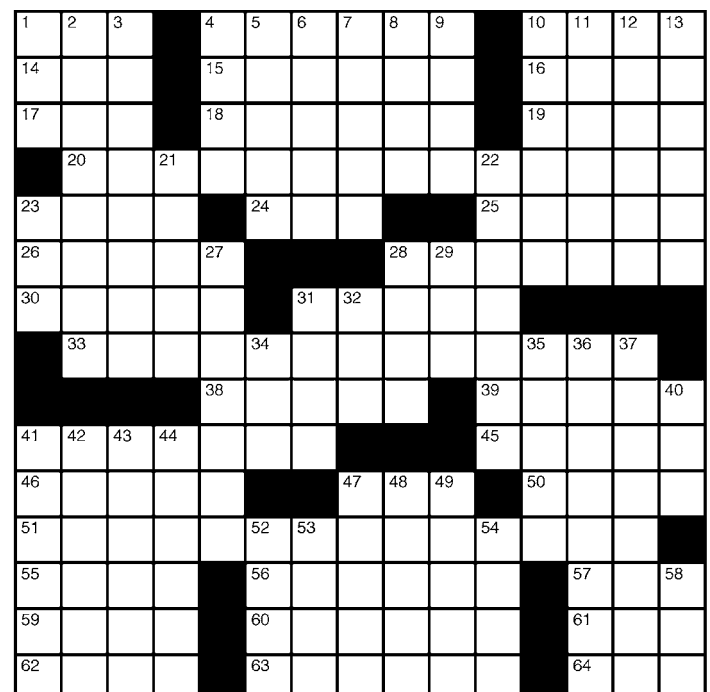
- 31 Volkswagen model
- 33 George Lucas hit
- 38 Truck renter
- 39 In existence
- 41 French or Monroe
- 45 Of quartz or feldspar
- 46 Make right
- 47 Sault _ Marie
- 50 "Venus de _"
- 51 Bruce Springsteen hit
- 55 Mexican moola
- 56 Tastelessly affected
- 57 Do one better than
- 59 Part of IBM
- 60 Existing naturally
- 61 Reef denizen
- 62 Comfort
- 63 Stone monuments
- 64 Like many a bad textbook

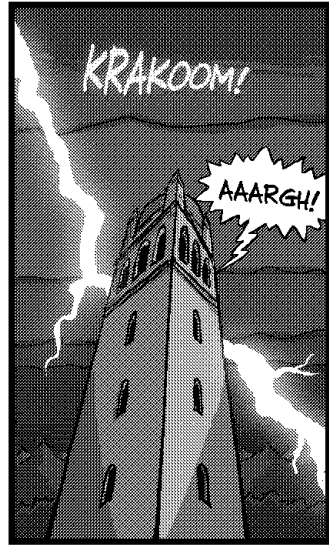
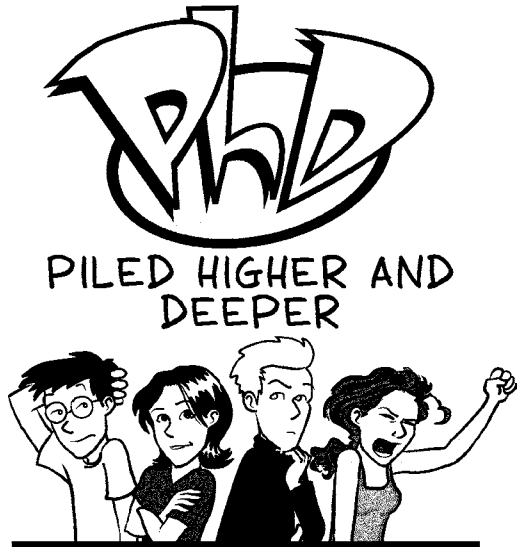
DOWN

- 1 Hosp. section
- 2 Came clean
- 3 Kline/Field movie
- 4 Train like Rocky
- 5 Dine at home
- 6 RBIs and such
- 7 Skylit courtyards
- 8 Chow or lo follower
- 9 Formerly, formerly
- 10 Give consent
- 11 Picked out
- 12 Fishing gear
- 13 Failed to leave
- 21 Region of Asia Minor
- 22 Certain cigars
- 23 Gray Johnny
- 27 Ring-shaped molding
- 28 Web page file letters

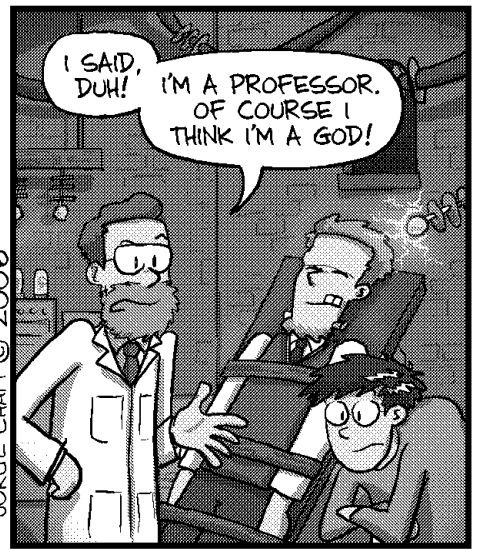
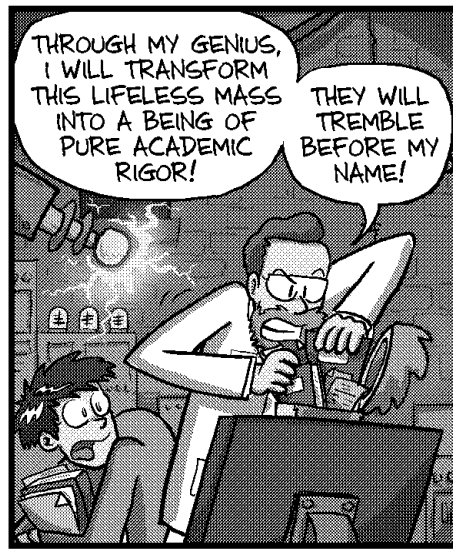
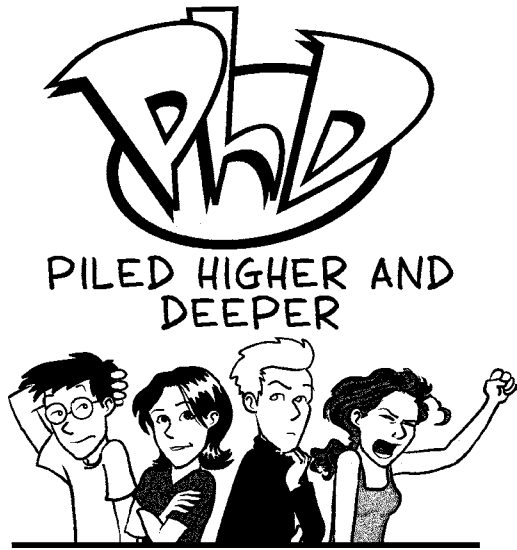
DOWN

- 29 Goddess of folly
- 31 Rocker Jett
- 32 Aussie non-flier
- 34 Your, long ago
- 35 Texas landmark
- 36 With eyelashes
- 37 Baddie
- 40 System or friendly lead-in
- 41 Heckle or Jeckle
- 42 Goddess of wisdom
- 43 Sits on a perch
- 44 Shoe pad
- 47 Boulder
- 48 Wreck beyond repair
- 49 Behave theatrically
- 52 Mayberry boozer
- 53 Typeface
- 54 Regular guys
- 58 Layer





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plus a resume to vera.pinkawa@bahn.de
by September 15, 2007

Open to all engineering graduate and undergraduate
students – other disciplines welcome too! Interviews
for the German Rail Trainee Program or for internships
at DB can be arranged for the next day.

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Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Aug. 13 and Sept. 5, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuttles.

- Aug. 13:** E2 (70 Amherst St.), 4:09 p.m., Burglary; reporting person states laptop was stolen.
E6 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 4:13 p.m., Reporting person states he is receiving harassing e-mail.
- Aug. 14:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 11:56 a.m., Warrant served; suspect in an incident stopped with outstanding warrant. Elliot Jackson, 43, of Island View Pl., Dorchester, Mass., taken into custody.
- Aug. 15:** M5 (55 Mass. Ave.), 10:53 a.m., Breaking and entering; reporting person states laptop and camera stolen.
Westgate Lot, 12:07 p.m., Report of breaking and entering in motor vehicle; nothing taken from vehicle.
M26 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 1:00 p.m., Arrest made; witness reports suspect attempting to steal bike from M26. Suspect fled, was apprehended. Jose Pomaes of Harbor St., Waltham, Mass. charged with larceny over \$250.
NW10 (143 Albany St.), 7:45 p.m., Ruo Chuan Liu of 143 Albany St. #22, arrested after report of domestic disturbance.
Windsor Lot, 10:05 p.m., Report of breaking and entering in motor vehicle; laptop stolen.
- Aug. 16:** M18 (21 Rear Ames St.), 7:40 a.m., Facilities reports malicious destruction of property.
W51 (410 Memorial Dr.), 12:33 p.m., Persons attempting to sell speakers. John Sims, 2 Stevens Rd, North Hampton, NH, arrested for outstanding warrant.
- Aug. 18:** Kendall Square (0 Main St.), 10:16 p.m., Female approached officer about alleged sexual assault that occurred off campus, by person known to female.
- Aug. 20:** M12 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 2:03 p.m., Suspect in building material thefts arrested; Stefano Fazio, 288 Charles St., Malden, Mass. arrested for larceny from building and related charges.
W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 9:23 p.m., Homeless person arrested on default warrant; Christopher Bowden, 120 Graybirch Rd., Belmont, Mass.
- Aug. 22:** NW21 (190 Albany St.), 9:24 a.m., Malicious destruction; report of broken car window.
Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 5:31 p.m., Party reports vehicle struck in Albany parking lot.
E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 9:38 p.m., Reporting person states her vehicle was broken into in Herman Garage; no items taken from vehicle.
- Aug. 24:** M32 (32 Vassar St.), 7:24 p.m., Suspicious person; Claudine M.G. Dyer, 20, of Kingman Rd., Somerville, Mass., arrested for trespassing in building.
- Aug. 26:** N4 (32 Albany St.), 5:45 p.m., Assist of police; Report of male seen with firearm – Cambridge Police make arrest.
- Aug. 27:** N52 (256 Mass. Ave.), 8:52 a.m., Police respond to threatening e-mail with non-specific bomb threat.
- Aug. 30:** M35 (127 Mass. Ave.), 7:40 a.m., Breaking and entering; Room broken into and Homer Simpson doll stolen.
Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 3:46 p.m., Breaking and entering in motor vehicle; cell phone reported stolen.
Hayward Lot, 10:18 p.m., Breaking and entering in motor vehicle; GPS stolen.
- Aug. 31:** W61 (450 Memorial Dr.), Breaking and entering with no force; laptop reported stolen.
- Sept. 4:** W15 (350 Brookline St.), 7:54 a.m., Malicious destruction; tires of several vans slashed over weekend.
- Sept. 5:** Mass. Ave. Bridge, 1:15 a.m., Report of juveniles pushing bikes while riding others; two juveniles arrested for receiving stolen property and possession of burglarious tools.

COMPILED BY NICK SEMENKOVICH



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where everyone is welcome at
Christ's table, conveniently located
where you live.

Join us this and every Wednesday for worship.
5:15pm in the MIT Chapel
(dinner & discussion follow in W11)

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Got something to say? letters@the-tech.mit.edu

MIT Writing Prof. Publishes New Book 11 Years Later

By Johnny Diaz
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Junot Diaz is relieved. It has taken him 11 years to produce the follow-up novel to "Drown," his collection of short stories about growing up Dominican-American that was published to critical success in 1996. His new novel, "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," follows the loves and losses (mostly losses) of a Dominican-American family back on the island and in New Jersey.

Throughout the book, Diaz points out that the family may be living under a curse, "a high-level fuku" that has doomed them to eternal unhappiness. But that curse may describe Diaz's temporary loss for words, the writer's block that paralyzed him sporadically over the years.

He managed to unlock his writer's block, and he seems at ease during an interview, although his leg pumps up and down like a car piston as he talks about his new novel and life after "Drown."

"I am, like, really relieved, you know," says Diaz, 38, sitting at one of his hangouts, Central Kitchen in Cambridge. He wears black-frame glasses, a buzz cut, and white guayabera. He takes a deep breath as he begins to discuss the long bumpy journey that his new novel dragged him on. "It was such a long process that I felt like what I am more than anything is [expletive] relieved, bro... I wouldn't say that I'm excited," says Diaz, a creative writing professor at MIT who splits his time between apartments in Harvard Square and Harlem. He speaks in a raw, high-energy, streetwise Spanglish. He peppers his words with profanities, as do the characters in his stories.

His new tale follows Oscar de Leon, a pudgy "ghetto nerd" who uses science-fiction novels, "Star Trek" dolls, and writing to escape his failures at finding love. "Dude wore his nerdiness like a Jedi wore his light saber. ... Couldn't have passed for Normal if he'd wanted to," Diaz writes. But he also writes about Oscar's oppressive mother, Belicia, and his firecracker rebellious sister Lola, as they move back and forth between gritty Paterson, N.J., and their native Dominican Republic.

"I wanted to stay with Oscar the whole time, but that's not what the book required of me. It refused," says Diaz, who named the title character after the Spanish pronunciation of Oscar Wilde. "It's impossible to understand Oscar without understanding his whole family."

Although Oscar and his family live in the same house, none of the characters seem to know what goes on in one another's lives. That code of silence propels the novel, and it's something that Diaz himself experienced growing up in two cultures.

"My mother had absolutely no concept of what my world had of [being] a young kid in mostly Puerto Rican and black Central New Jersey. I had no concept of what her life was like growing up in Santo Domingo and living through the revolution," says Diaz, his eyes animated as he chats breathlessly. "For me, it was

*"I just kept throwing myself out into the wilderness of the word."
—MIT Professor Junot Diaz*

important to have the book riddled with silences, holes, and gaps. The fundamental byproduct of trauma is silence. Immigration put a gag on so many families."

Diaz is a child of immigration. He was born in Santo Domingo and emigrated to working-class New Jersey at age 6 during what has been called the Dominican diaspora, the wave of Dominicans who came to the United States after the death of dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1961. As Diaz settled into his new country, alienation enveloped him. Teachers pronounced his name "You Not." (His first name, which is Haitian, is pronounced the same as the capital of Alaska.) Classmates hurled racial slurs and taunted him for his accent, geekiness, and love of books. He found an escape by reading science fiction and horror books, including those of Stephen King.

By the time he entered Rutgers University, Diaz turned his love of reading into a passion for writing. One important influence was the novels by Toni Morrison. "I had never met a writer who wrote so perfectly and delves so deep," Diaz says. "She reaches into the core of those silences."

Diaz used his voice to uncork his own silences about being bicultural, drawing from his own experiences but told through different characters. The main character in his stories, Yunior, happens to be Diaz's family nickname. He admits that Yunior is a cooler and smarter version of him. He would write when he came home from running a copy machine in New York.

In 1996, Riverhead Books signed Diaz to a six-figure contract for two books, the first of which was "Drown." Diaz exploded as a literary wonder. He had short stories published in The New Yorker and The Paris Review. Newsweek named him a new face of 1996. The New Yorker included him in its list of 20 writers to watch for in the 21st century.

As his publisher and fans awaited his follow-up, Diaz was struck with a bad case of writer's block. The dreaded "fuku"?

Diaz dismisses the notion that he, like his characters, was cursed. The reason it took him so long to write the new novel was that he couldn't finish a science fiction novel he began. That book, which he still hasn't finished, describes a terrorist attack in New York City. (Diaz began the book before 9/11 and says the NBC show "Heroes" reminds him of his story.)

"I was driving myself crazy [writing the second book]," says Diaz, whose first book helped him land a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1999, followed by the Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Fund Writers' Award, the PEN/Malamud Award, and others. In between, he's been teaching at MIT for the past four years and contributed each summer to Voices, a summer mentoring program at the University of San Francisco for young minority writers. "It was just a hard book. It's so much easier to help my kids than to do my own work. In that way, I was avoiding my own work."

So how did he triumph over his writer's block? For one thing, he set aside the sci-fi book that wasn't coming together. Beyond that, it was a matter of persistence and hard work.

"I just bullied myself through it. I just kept throwing myself out into the wilderness of the word," Diaz says. "I would write 200 pages, get [expletive] depressed and crazy, sit around for two months, and then come back and write another 200 pages. It was endless. Sometimes they don't come easy."

Diaz mines familiar themes in the new book: Dominican-American history, New Jersey upbringing, infi-

delity, science fiction, strong-willed women, the elusive search for lasting love. (Has he found his own? He has. He's engaged to be married.)

Now that "Oscar Wao" is in bookstores, Diaz is trying his hand again at the apocalyptic science fiction novel that he has yet to finish.

"I learned so much by [expletive] up so thoroughly in writing of the ['Oscar Wao'] book," Diaz says. "I would have never learned any of this. I feel this book has turned me into the strongest writer I have ever been. It was my 11 years in the desert. Whether I can do anything with that, that's for the future to decide."

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On-campus interviews September 26

Application deadline September 16

The D. E. Shaw group will conduct on-campus interviews September 26. To apply for an interview, log on to MonsterTrak. If this isn't possible, please send a resume and cover letter stating your GPA and standardized test scores, broken down by section where applicable, to jobs@deshaw.com. All applications must be received by September 16.

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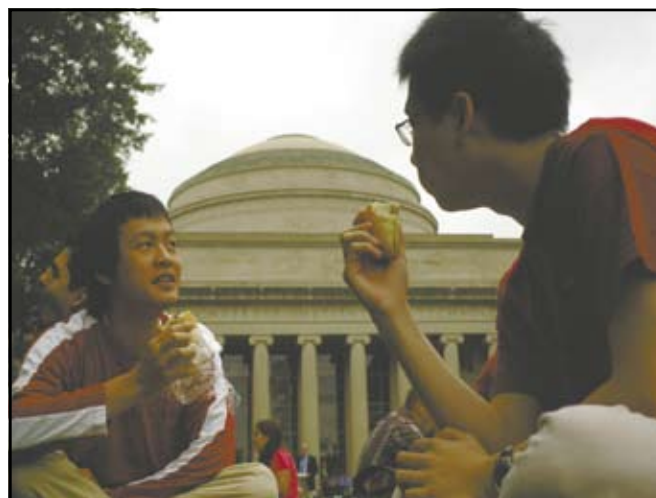
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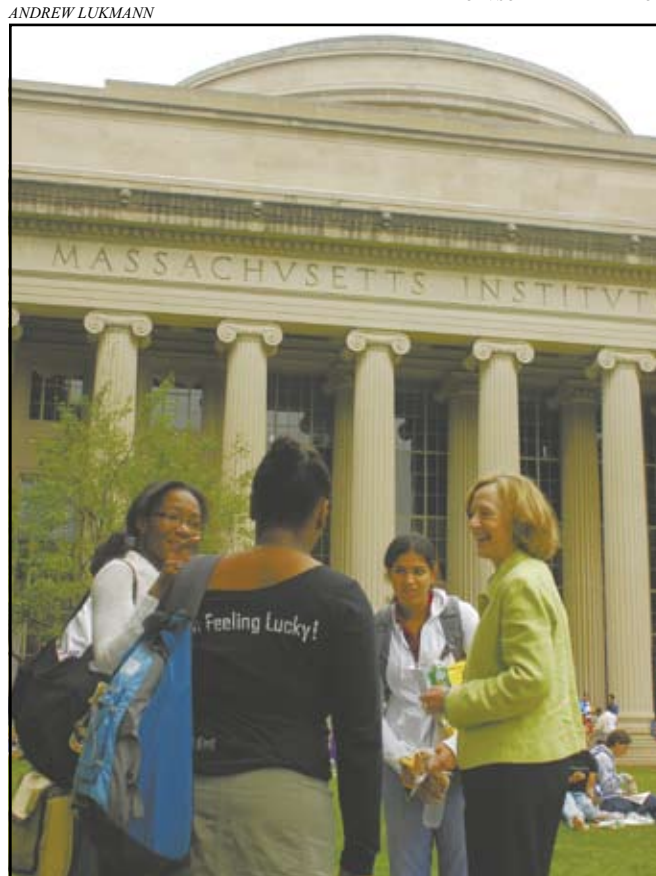
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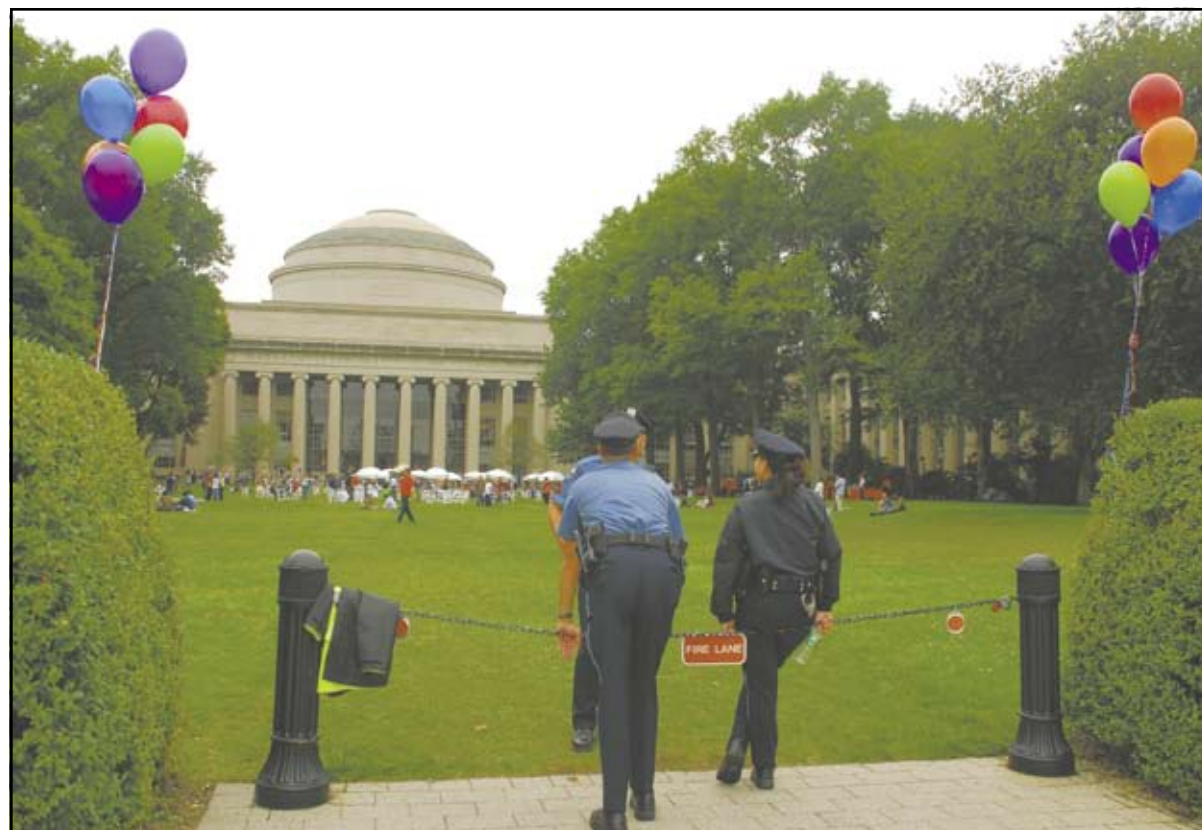


ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



ANDREW LUKMANN

MIT Community Picnic Held in Killian Court



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

ANDREW LUKMANN

(clockwise from top left)

Lines for the free Community Picnic lunch stretched along both sides of Killian Court Monday. The tables remained well-stocked with food throughout most of the picnic.

Anh D. Nguyen '10 (left) and Thananat Jitapunkul '10 (right) bite into their sandwiches.

President Susan Hockfield discusses student life with (from left) Julie Laure K. Maison '09, Neeharika Bhartiya '10, and Timan E. Goshit '09.

Tables and chairs were set up for a few who got there early enough to find a seat.

MIT Police officers look on as the picnic held on Killian Court wraps up.



GSC President Discusses Graduate Student Concerns

Ekstrom, from Page 1

... there's a lot of stuff happening here, and there's a lot of infrastructure being built.

When I sat down and thought about it, the size of the campus is very large compared to the student body; there's a lot of space. I guess it's partly reflecting the research activities that go on here. People find the campus a disjointed campus, but in some ways, it is quite nice, especially walking on the river. ... You've got the skyline of Boston on one hand, and you have this grand dome with this giant grassy place. I guess it's easy to forget our surroundings, running around with class and lab. Often we don't stop and appreciate the splendor of some of these sites.

TT: What made you want to become the GSC president?

LE: I've been involved with the GSC almost since I got here. I was a representative for HST my first two years. Junior year, I worked for the [Graduate Student News] as one of the layout people, getting the magazine together. Last year, I was the Housing and Community Affairs chair; [the HCA] is one of the four main committees of the GSC. It is very much involved in the advocacy efforts of the GSC in terms of stipend increases, on-campus housing, and what happens to the campus housing system concerning rent.

We were a big part of the MIT Cable updates last summer, which I think most have enjoyed. I guess I enjoyed those policy aspects — not that I don't like the fun aspects of the GSC as well — thinking about how to break down an issue and how to present your case and argue for something.

The president is also the primary person responsible for coordinating those efforts. From my time in HCA, stepping up to the presidency seemed like a natural progression. I got a chance to do what I enjoyed in the HCA position and a chance to advocate and lobby for the graduate student body as a whole — we're the largest population on campus with about 6,500 of us, compared to 4,000 undergrads.

TT: That's surprising because MIT seems to concentrate on undergrad education.

LE: That is a very astute observation. I think some of that just may be historical. For a long time, undergrads used to be the bigger population. One of the things I'm hoping to do this year is to raise awareness of the GSC, make sure all the students know about all the stuff we do. But then also, to anyone who would listen, tell them about the size of the graduate population and some of the needs of the graduate population.

If there are specific areas or offices that we feel are really focusing on undergrads, we're going to go in and try to make a case, saying, "Well, there's a very big part of the MIT population here that maybe is not taking advantage of your services." I don't think it's willful.

For most people, after talking with administrators, when they went to grad school 20, 30, 40 years ago, the concept of graduate student life didn't really exist. It was a job; you went into lab for your 8, 10, 12 hours, you went home, you probably lived off-campus. So the idea of on-campus dormitories or graduate housing on campus didn't really exist; they didn't really have tight communities, and life outside of lab didn't really exist.

The Northwest Corridor [the area near Sidney-Pacific dormitory] is really exciting. With the new dorm [NW35] coming up there, there will be 1,700 students living in that corridor. It's quite a concentration of graduate students, so places like the Thirsty Ear Pub can really become a hub of graduate student activity and life on campus.

I'm a big advocate of encouraging people not to spend all their time focused in their laboratory. If you let it, it is possible that all your time will get sucked up. ... I think that the new dean for graduate students, Steven [R.] Lerman [72], is a big fan of this

as well. He is forcing people to round out other sides of their education ...

Go down to the sailing pavilion and learn how to sail. Go enter the glass lottery and do the glass lab if you actually get a chance to get in there. Take advantage of the Hobby Shop and the athletic facilities that we have here. Go play underwater hockey. So many oddball activities exist. I think that there is a lot more to the campus that people realize.

TT: What are some of the needs that the Institute isn't meeting at the moment?

LE: I can give you a couple of specific examples that I can talk about in broad terms. We're going to try to work with MIT Medical to get some sort of dental care package for graduate students. ... A lot of graduate students don't have any comprehensive dental care so either they don't go to the dentist or it costs a lot of money when they go to the dentist. ...

The big thing that the GSC is debating about is the funding for student activities: where does the money go, such as the Student Life Fee? ...

There are a lot of resources the undergraduates have financially that the graduate population should have equally. Personally for the GSC, we rely very heavily on the Career Fair; a lot of the programs we run are dependent on the revenue from that career fair. ... Looking at the more general need of the graduate students, funding is always a concern. ...

One of the challenges here at MIT is that the graduate population is so large compared to the undergraduate population; there just aren't as many undergraduate courses to give every graduate student who needs it a [teaching assistantship]. Other schools where you have a 10:1 ratio, it's easy to get a TA. Maybe that's one thing that is unfortunate about the graduate education here at MIT, especially if you want to go onto academia. [Students] may not have a chance to develop those teaching skills. ...

A full TA paid by a department covers your full tuition and stipend. It's on the order of almost \$30,000/semester. ...

About 30 percent of the graduate population is married, maybe 700 of those have children — the idea of living on a graduate student stipend trying to support this many people just boggles me. ...

I'm sure it's incredibly challenging, and what the Institute can do to support the family population is something we always ask every year. The Tech[nology] Children's Centers are not necessarily financially accessible for graduate students. The rates they charge there — basically, your entire stipend would go to childcare. ... The Institute has done a good job over the past several years; each year they have been able to bring down the cost.

International students are another population. How are those people supported while they are here at MIT? The International Students Office is, a lot of the times, very busy with the mundane paperwork details. The reporting requirements are extensive — having to make sure everyone's visas and paperwork is in order.

How do you support these people when they have problems? They don't necessarily know who to go to ask for help ... what about cultural adaptation to the U.S.? The graduate students are going to be here for five or six years — what can we do at the beginning to smooth out that process? Are there things we can do to encourage international students to mix more with outside of whatever comfort group they come from? ... The graduate population is about 35 percent international, roughly — considerably bigger than the undergraduate [international] population — so there are events that the GSC can put on that are more welcoming to the whole spectrum.

TT: How do you plan to, as the president, increase the awareness of the graduate population size on campus?

LE: Continuing some of the events from last year, like the Graduate Gala, [which] I think was a big publicity



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

Leeland B. Ekstrom G, president of the Graduate Student Council, talks to *The Tech* about graduate student life and his plans for the GSC.

generator. It was a very successful event; 700 graduate students showed up at the Park Plaza and 100 plus more asked for tickets afterwards. We are going to run it again this year, and this is sort of a big signature event that the GSC is uniquely positioned to run and really promote.

Other things we would like to do in the GSC office is to get in touch with all the different departments. The GSC did a big survey on advising a couple years ago, looking at the best practices in different departments. A lot of the aggregated information was publicized, but I don't think a lot of the information goes back to the department level. ...

The new Ashdown [NW35] construction plans were first proposed a year-and-a-half ago, and it was something GSC responded to with quite a bit of vigor. It was a very nuanced issue, but it showed the benefit of having a common student voice. I think the final building that's going up is much more desirable for the students and for the people who are going to use that space than when it was initially proposed. There's much more community and common space

in there than was going to exist previously.

There are some lower priced rooms — that was one concern with losing Ashdown [W1]. [W1] has all the rents on the low end of the spectrum. The [NW35] building as it was initially proposed was supposed to have rents at the higher end of the spectrum, so where do [the W1] students go? Partially, it has been addressed. There are some lower cost options, but there are going to be students who aren't going to want to move into that new building because they don't want to or it's more than they want to pay.

TT: What do you like doing in your free time?

LE: During the winter, I'm a big skier. The GSC has a snowboarding, skiing trip — I really like taking advantage of the outdoors. Less exotic pursuits: I love reading the newspaper in the morning, whether it's *The Tech* or *The Boston Globe*, just taking half an hour to eat breakfast, or taking the shuttle to lab.

I enjoy intramural sports as well. I didn't actually play hockey in Canada. I started playing IM hockey when I came down here. It sort of breaks the

Leeland B. Ekstrom G

Education Background: BS in Engineering Physics and BS in Life Sciences from Queen's University in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Previous Occupations: research assistant in neuroimaging, physiology, physics

Hometown: Oakville, Ontario, Canada

Years at MIT: four

Age: 27

GSC Office: 50-220

E-mail: lekstrom@mit.edu

stereotype; we don't all play hockey in Canada. ...

I like going out on the town in Boston. There are a lot of different performances that come into Boston. My girlfriend is a big fan of ballet, so I enjoy going with her, seeing dance performances. Not much theater necessarily, but we've been to see the [Boston] Pops a couple times. Usually students can get in for \$20. Always ask for student price. That is one piece of advice for new students.

Challenges to the Scholars of This Age:

- 1) Find the "Platonist forms" for solution to the problems of "structural development of personality", the "unified field theory", and the question(s) of "free will".
- 2) Recognize that those "Platonist forms", or truths, are language related in expression but have real "forms" that determine description, once language is fixed.
- 3) Make those true "forms" the generally accepted descriptions of "reality" for all educated persons, regardless of their language.

Duplicities Currently Accepted:

- 1) "Personality" is the result of adoption of the "super-ego" or "world view" of parents and is "identification with an aggressor" parent in the "Oedipal complex" or "personality" is indistinguishable from the "genetic" person.
- 2) The "particle" of energy is the "photon" and equals a unit quantity of energy times its' frequency (hf). Energy and mass are interchangeable and not different "forms".
- 3) "Free will" is the ability to choose good from evil, without making the self, evil with the wrong choice.

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Local Media Link Sodium To MIT

Sodium, from Page 1

unclear at this point whether the sodium is connected to MIT.

"State Police and fire officials are aware of sodium drops into the Charles River," Wark said, "but how this substance got to the Boston side of the river remains under investigation."

David Kaplar, managing editor of WBZ-TV News, said the station made the connection between Thursday's explosion and MIT after a fire marshal at the scene informed WBZ-TV that "blocks of sodium" were responsible. "[We did a] Web search and put two-and-two together," Kaplar said.

An Internet search for sodium and the Charles River returns numerous references to sodium drops, including photos of the events and references in official MIT Admissions blogs.

According to an article on the WBZ-TV Web site, television news producers "informed the fire marshal's office about the ritual."

The *Globe* reported Saturday that MIT students steal the sodium used in the drops from the school's chemistry laboratories. MIT Police Chief John DiFava, however, said Friday that he has "never seen a report of stolen sodium."

Pamela Dumas Serfes, spokesperson for the MIT News Office, said that "MIT is cooperating fully with appropriate authorities to establish the facts."

Larry G. Benedict, dean for student life, said that "the state police are investigating," but declined to elaborate. "I am quite disturbed that innocent bystanders got seriously injured," said Benedict. Benedict would not comment on the future of the sodium drop tradition.

McNichol, however, said he hopes the sodium drop tradition will end.

"[The students] never realized that if a child had picked that up [they would have been severely hurt] ... good thing, actually, that it was picked up by a pole with a net and not by hand," McNichol said.

In addition to injuries suffered by his volunteer crew, McNichol's boat was damaged in the ensuing fire. McNichol said that the crew is facing a substantial bill that they are unable to pay. "For the last four years, we've cleaned the river," McNichol said. "This is a good thing that might get sunk."

"My impression is that there is certainly a culpability for MIT," McNichol said. "It's up to the police and administration at MIT to address that."

A video of the 2007 sodium drop, which took place a week before the boat fire incident, was posted by an MIT freshman on YouTube and later removed. For a mirror of the original, see <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N36/sodiumdrop/video.htm>.

Michael McGraw-Herdeg contributed to the reporting of this article.

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Dartmouth Expands Board; Alumni Role Reduced by Change

By Tamar Lewin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dartmouth College announced late on Saturday night that its board of trustees would expand to 24 members, two-thirds chosen by the college and one-third elected by the alumni.

Since 1891, Dartmouth alumni have elected eight trustees and the administration has appointed an additional eight, giving the college an unusually small board and an unusual level of alumni power.

The changes come largely in reaction to divisive trustee campaigns over the past three years, in which alumni rejected the candidates officially nominated by the alumni association and instead elected four libertarian or conservative alumni who got onto the ballot through a petition process.

The four petition trustees have said they are unhappy with the direction of the college. Among the issues they have raised are what they consider unacceptable limits on free speech, academic bloat, and an overall sense that Dartmouth, which has 4,000 undergraduates in Hanover, N.H., has been pushing to become a small-scale

research university at the expense of the undergraduate experience.

Supporters of the petition trustees have campaigned furiously in recent months to stop the proposed dilution of alumni power. The governor and the college president also serve on the board.

In his announcement of the changes, decided at the board's annual retreat at Squam Lake, N.H., Charles E. Haldeman Jr., the chairman of the board, acknowledged the difficulties of the past few elections.

"Dartmouth's trustee elections have become increasingly politicized, costly and divisive," he said. "It's not the results of these elections that are the problem, but the process itself."

"I know some will ask why we didn't simply expand the board through an equal number of charter and alumni trustee seats," he said. "Given the divisiveness of recent elections we did not believe that having more elections would be good for Dartmouth."

Stephen F. Smith, the most recently elected petition candidate, did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

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GSC Considers Other Dental Alternatives

Dental, from Page 1

stages and that the GSC is trying to "better assess the current cost of dental services for grad students and quantify the extent to which dental insurance would benefit the graduate student population."

Ekstrom explained that there had been problems with MIT offering a dental plan in the past. To be affordable, an insurance plan would require a large subscriber base, which would mostly likely require mandatory participation.

Boyd said it was standard for dental care to be excluded from in-

surance plans, including such behemoths as Blue Cross Blue Shield. "There has always been a fee for this kind of service ... even though you would think dentistry was just another specialty like 'internal medicine,'" Boyd said.

Students also receive a 10 percent discount at MIT Medical. Boyd suggested that it would not be more expensive to pay for dental care at MIT on a fee basis than to pay for the BU insurance plan. "I think people went there thinking that they'd get a real bargain, [and then] found it wasn't as convenient and cost effective," Boyd said.

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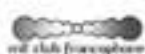
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Preis Nets Nine Goals, Helps Tech Win Four Games at Invitational

Water Polo, from Page 20

produce the final 13-9 score line. Smith-Bronstein and St. Julien Palmer Rosemond '09 also contributed, each securing three steals to help out on the Cardinal and Gray's defensive end. Morgan S. Laidlaw '08 and Devin M. Lewis '10 notched two steals apiece, and Lewis also drew two ejections.

Laidlaw, Rosemond, Robert J. Kalwarowsky '10, and Grant D. Tomassi '11 rounded out the scoring for Tech with one goal each.

Souza was solid in net, making six saves and contributing two steals to secure the victory.

Solid second day

MIT continued its impressive play at home with a pair of wins on Saturday afternoon, downing Connecticut College, 19-5, before edging out Washington and Jefferson College, 11-8. The Engineers also defeated Yale University's club team, 12-4, in an exhibition match.

MIT's offense continued to be red-hot on the second day of the competition, scoring in double digits in each of the three matches.

In the opener against Connecticut College (0-3), Preis once again led Tech (4-1) on the offensive end, bagging four goals for the first time in his young career. Kalwarowsky, Lewis, Gardiner, and Spencer D. Williams '11 notched a pair of goals each, while Artz, Smith-Bronstein, Rosemond, Tomassi, Laidlaw, and

goalkeeper Souza each contributed a goal apiece.

Goalkeeper Hiroshi A. Mendoza '10 made six saves to earn the first victory of his intercollegiate career.

The afternoon tilt with Washington and Jefferson (0-2) was a much more hotly contested battle, as the Engineers were pushed to the very end by the Presidents. However, hat tricks from both Artz and Preis and a pair of strikes from Rosemond helped propel the Cardinal and Gray to victory. Laidlaw, Tomassi, and Gardiner each pitched in with one goal to round out the scoring.

Souza manned the net for MIT, stopping four shots and contributing two steals.

MIT finished Saturday's competition in an exhibition match against Yale's club team, as the youthful Engineers continued to hone their skills. Rosemond (3), Artz (2), Preis (2), Kalwarowsky, Tomassi, Lewis, Gardiner, and Alexander J. Mattfolk '11 all found the back of the net for Tech. Preis' pair of goals pushed his season-total to a team-best 18.

Mendoza returned to take over goalkeeping duties in the final contest, making four saves to earn his second win of the day.

The Engineers concluded play in an exhibition match against Santa Rosa Junior College on Sunday morning, which ended in a 6-6 tie.

The water polo team resumes play in an away match against Queens, New York on Saturday, Sept. 15 at noon.

Ludlum Contributes One Goal, Two Assists in Win

Women's Soccer, from Page 20

the net for the early lead.

Worcester State (1-2), which was picked to win the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference in the league's preseason poll, answered in the 18th minute after a tremendous individual effort by Katelyn Bonetti. The junior forward shook the MIT defense with a few strong moves and cleared enough space to fire off a rocket from 12 yards out that ended up in the top right corner of the goal.

The Lasers added a second score in the 41st minute as Amanda Santos delivered a great ball to Tiffany Rotatori, who promptly buried the feed past Tech keeper Stephanie V. Brenman '09 to reclaim the lead for Worcester State. The Lasers dominated the first half, outshooting MIT, 17-4. Only a few key stops prevented the Lasers from extending their lead even further. Showing outstanding play at both ends of the field, Pesce hustled back to break up a breakaway attempt by Lauren Cush with 20 minutes left in the frame. A few minutes later, Santos fired a shot on goal that Brenman jumped and tipped off the top of the crossbar before the MIT backline cleared the ball.

With a gusty wind at their back in the second half, the Engineers turned the tables on Worcester State. A long ball from the back of MIT's formation was corralled up top by Theurer in the 49th minute. Doherty made the

initial save on Theurer's break-away attempt, but the reigning NEWMAC Rookie of the Year gobbled up the rebound to provide the equalizer.

Theurer netted the game-winner in the 60th minute after bringing in another long service. Taking advantage of a thunderous kick by Brenman, Theurer outmaneuvered the Worcester State defense for the score.

Pesce extended MIT's lead in the 68th minute with a high-arching goal from 30 yards out. Ludlum drew in the defense before passing the ball back to Pesce, who was wide open for the long-range attempt.

After setting up two goals earlier in the tilt, Ludlum supplied a goal of her own in the 81st minute after stripping a Worcester State defender deep in the back. The score gave the senior playmaker a goal for the third consecutive game to open the campaign. Brenman finished the match with 11 saves for the Engineers, while Doherty made four stops for the Lasers. Worcester State closed the afternoon with a 23-11 advantage in shots, although MIT outshot the Lasers, 7-6, in the second half.

Tech returns to the field on Tuesday, Sept. 11 against the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth at 4 p.m. at Steinbrenner Stadium.

Caldwell Saves Penalty Shot in 80th Minute to Preserve Victory

Men's Soccer, from Page 20

S. Zimmerman '09 broke free down the right side, delivering a picture-perfect cross right to Therkelsen. The rookie made no mistake, re-directing his header across the face of the goal and off the inside of the left post, giving Rhode Island keeper Dereck Loisel no chance.

The resilient Anchormen (2-2-0) also managed a goal on their first shot of the contest, leveling the score in the 27th minute when freshman midfielder Adam Philbin's cross from the left flank was side-footed home by sophomore Jose Talavera. The strike was the first of the year for Talavera and left the half-time score line at 1-1.

MIT opened a scoring flurry in

the second half, re-taking the lead with a pair of goals less than six minutes after the restart. Chase J. Lochmiller '08 sent an excellent through ball to Therkelsen, catching the Rhode Island defense sleeping. Therkelsen calmly rounded the keeper before burying the shot, skirting around two back-tracking defenders in the 48th minute.

Therkelsen gave the Engineers a 3-1 cushion and completed his hat trick just over three minutes later, notching his fourth goal of the season after captain Andrew M. Bishara '09 sent him a through ball.

A frantic opening to the second half finished 29 seconds later, as Anchormen captain Josh Silva cut the deficit to 3-2 with a powerful penalty kick. The junior finished

high into the top right corner after a teammate was taken down in the box.

Rhode Island had a golden opportunity to tie the game in the 80th minute, as the referee awarded the Anchormen a second spot kick after an MIT handball. However, Silva's second penalty attempt was unsuccessful, as goalkeeper Thomas S. Caldwell '09 guessed left and batted the ball away to deny the effort and secure the 3-2 win.

Caldwell made three saves to earn the victory, while Loisel stopped two shots in defeat.

The Engineers will hit the road for the first time this season when they travel to Medford on Tuesday, Sept. 11 to take on Tufts University at 7 p.m.



AARON SAMPSON—THE TECH

David M. Nole '09 fights for control of the ball with Rhode Island College's Kyle Genereux during the MIT men's soccer match on Saturday.



DIANE K. RAK—THE TECH

Elizabeth L. Palmer '09 and Rachel B. Licht '10 start the Man-Labs Trophy regatta this past Saturday, Sept. 8. MIT's A division places first, just ahead of Yale and Harvard.

Solution to Crossword
from page 6

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SPORTS

Water Polo Wins 13-9 Against National Champ UC Santa Cruz

By Jeff Lemieux
DAPER STAFF

The men's water polo team competed against five other teams in last weekend's MIT Invitational, notching victories in four matches and a tie in an exhibition. The Engineers were particularly impressive in posting a strong 13-9 win over the Division III defending national champion, the University of California Santa Cruz, in their opening match on Friday night.

Victory over defending champion

MIT's water polo squad opened its 2007 home campaign in fine fashion on Friday night, downing defend-

ing Division III National Champion University of California Santa Cruz, 13-9. The Engineers used a gritty defensive effort to limit the fourth-ranked Banana Slugs to just one goal in the fourth quarter.

The game was the opener for both sides in the MIT Invitational, which saw nine teams from across the country compete in the Zesiger Center Pool from Friday to Sunday.

John V. Preis '11 led the Cardinal and Gray offensive attack with three goals, pushing his team-best total to 12 on the season. Michael R. Smith-Bronstein '09 notched two scores to give him 11 on the season, while Mark E. Artz '10 and Brian C. Gardiner '11 also bagged two goals each.

The contest was a back-and-forth affair throughout the first three quarters, with neither team distinguishing itself. UC Santa Cruz (0-1) held a 4-3 advantage after the first quarter, but a tight second saw the Engineers (2-1) knot the score at 6-6 heading into the half. The third quarter saw much of the same, as the squads traded goals, with Tech securing a slim 9-8 lead entering the final eight-minute period.

A brave defensive effort from MIT stymied the Banana Slugs in the fourth quarter, limiting their looks at goal and allowing just one shot to get past goalkeeper Nicholas A. Souza '10. Meanwhile, four goals from the Engineers helped bury the game and

Water Polo, Page 19



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Grant D. Tomassi '11 scores a goal late in the fourth period as the Engineers beat the University of California Santa Cruz, the defending NCAA Division III national champions, 13-9 Friday evening at the Zesiger Center Pool.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007

Women's Soccer vs. UMass-Dartmouth 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Field Hockey vs. Lasell 6 p.m., Jack Barry Field
Women's Volleyball vs. Smith 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007

Field Hockey vs. Simmons 6 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Tech Beats Worcester State 5-2; Theurer and Pesce Each Score Two

By James Kramer

DAPER STAFF

MIT women's soccer scored four unanswered goals in the second half, powering to a 5-2 victory against

Worcester State in the 2007 home opener at Steinbrenner Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Jean E. "Liz" Theurer '10 and Kathryn A.

Pesce '10 paced a remarkable performance for the Engineers by scoring two goals apiece, while Amy S.

Ludlum '08 also totaled four points to give MIT its second consecutive win.

The Engineers (2-1) lit the board first as Pesce knocked home her second goal of the season in the 15th minute. Ludlum set up the finish with a corner kick, while a diving attempt to snag the cross fell out of the reach of Lasers' goalkeeper Erin Doherty. Pesce stepped up to the loose ball and calmly planted it into the back of

Women's Soccer, Page 19

Therkelsen's Three Goals Power Tech to a 3-2 Win

Men's Soccer Avenges Last Year's Loss to R.I. College

By Jeff Lemieux

DAPER STAFF

Freshman sensation Christian W. Therkelsen '11 emerged as MIT's offensive hero for the second consecutive game, as the striker completed a hat trick in the Engineers' 3-2 victory over

Rhode Island College on Saturday afternoon at Steinbrenner Stadium. The Engineers exacted revenge on the An-

chormen, who soundly beat MIT by a score of 4-1 early last season.

Therkelsen has now scored the decisive goal in each of his first two intercollegiate contests, as he netted the game-winner in the 2-0 season-opening triumph over Salve Regina University last Tuesday.

MIT (2-0-0) opened the scoring in just the ninth minute on the first shot of the match. Midfielder Neil

Men's Soccer, Page 19

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