

2007: The Year in Review




News	3
Opinion	15
Arts	23
Campus Life	27
Sports	28

From the Editor

As spring semester begins and we return to the daily grind of life at MIT, take this opportunity to look back on the previous year. The Tech provides this special *Year in Review* issue to highlight some of the major news events of 2007 and share a selection of campus viewpoints. In these pages, you can also rediscover the best of the year's movies and music and learn more about our community's excellent student-athletes.

In particular, I would like to recommend the *Year in Review* to MIT's administrators. A reflection of their decisions and policies can be seen in the news and opinions articles presented in this issue. How better to evaluate how the year has gone — what worked and what didn't — than to step back and look at the major events of the year and their consequences in the eyes of those they affected the most?

Among the issues that came to prominence this year: Is racism a problem at MIT, and if so, what can we do about it? How do we protect members of the community and preserve the unique culture of MIT? How do we behave appropriately in the face of legal concerns? And what image do we present to the outside world in the face of aggressive scrutiny? We hope that these articles will help our readers continue to think about these questions, because they promise to remain relevant in the coming year.



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Editor in Chief
The Tech, Volume 127
Feb. 5, 2008



2007: The Year in Review

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CAMPUS LIFE

Charles Lin G

Table of Contents

NEWS	3
STUDENT LIFE	3
Student Influence Seen in Two Dining Decisions	3
Hacking Tradition Under Fire?	4
Housing Sees Ashdown, Next House Changes in 2007	5
AROUND THE INSTITUTE	7
Hunger Strike Ignites Discussions of Racism at MIT	7
Marilee Jones Leaves Behind Complicated Legacy	8
Education Sees Course Changes, Classes for Freshman Experience	9
BEYOND THE INSTITUTE	11
As Laptop Begins Production, OLPC Faces Competitions	11
The Institute in National, Local News	12
NEWS BRIEFS	
Recording Industry Sends Demand Letters	3
Successful Year for Fraternity, Sorority Recruitment	5
New Deans, Administrators Appointed	6
Changes at Peer Institutions Affect MIT Admissions	8
Technology Upgrades Across the Institute	9
MIT's Changing Face	9
Tuition Rises Even as Endowment, Donations Balloon	13
A Protracted Divestment from Sudan	13
In Memoriam	14
OPINION	15
The Year in <i>Tech</i> Editorials	15
Quiet Victories for Student Initiatives — <i>Ali S. Wyne</i>	15
Retaining MIT's Uniqueness — <i>Steven R. Lerman</i>	15
New Admins Can't Take Nerd Culture for Granted — <i>Ruth Miller</i>	16
MIT Students Go Global — <i>Sally Susnowitz</i>	16
Not Just Another Ivy League — <i>Sarah C. Hopp</i>	16
The Great Copyright Crackdown — <i>Jeffrey I. Schiller</i>	16
MIT's Missile Defense Cover-Up — <i>Theodore A. Postol</i>	17
The Paradox of Institute Performance and Faculty Perceptions — <i>Bish Sanyal</i>	20
ARTS	23
The Ten Best Albums of 2007	23
On the Silver Screen: Major Movies of 2007	24
CAMPUS LIFE	27
Discovering Tradition, Creating Culture, and Finding Home	27
Fave Movie? Best Party? <i>The Tech</i> Asks...	27
SPORTS	28
Profiles in Dedication: Athletes at MIT	28
Pistol Wins Second National Title in Three Years	28
Women's Volleyball Reaches NCAA Sweet 16	29
Women's Tennis Earns Highest Ever National Ranking	29
Men's Track and Field Races to Seventh Straight NEWMAC Title	29
Women's Track and Field Claims Its First Ever NEWMAC Championship	30
Women's Cross Country Finishes Seventh in New England Regional	30
Sailing Finishes Fall as No. 11 in U.S.	30
Men's Volleyball Takes NECVA New England Division Title	31
Moments You Shouldn't (and Probably Can't) Forget From 2007	32
Men's Lacrosse Loses in New England Semis	33
Ruzevick Leads Men's Cross Country Team to 10th Consecutive Title	35
THROUGH THE LENS	
The Year in Pictures	18
The Arts at MIT	26
The Year in Sports	36

About the Cover:

A new LED lighting system for the Great Dome debuted on June 9. Using energy efficient technologies, the lighting uses only as much energy as two hair dryers. (Photo Credit: Brian Hemond)

Student Influence Seen in Two Dining Decisions

By JiHye Kim

In the MIT administration's eyes, eating together builds community, and dormitory dining halls and mandatory meal plans are the best way to get at the kind of community the Institute wants. This analysis explains why when Ashdown House is renovated into the W1 undergraduate dormitory, its kitchens will be replaced with a dining hall.

But sometimes students have a say, too. Students' influence on dining was seen in at least two events of 2007: fees were not increased for membership in MIT's meal plan, and the unpopular Pritchett Dining was closed. Additionally, MIT has said that student input within a new committee will help shape the way the Institute thinks about eating on campus.

House Dining prices frozen at \$300

In April, the Office of Campus Dining announced that the House Dining membership (previously called Preferred Dining) cost would increase from \$300 to \$325. But after students showed that the current costs put them at a financial loss, the office agreed to fix the cost at \$325 for up to three years. Once Pritchett

- Meal plan fees to be frozen at \$300 for up to three years
- Administrators decide new undergraduate dorm, W1, will have a dining hall and no kitchens.
- Chancellor Clay: "The president's committed to dining. I'm committed to dining. Larry's committed to dining."
- New faculty-student committee may affect future of Institute dining

Dining, located on the east side of campus, was closed at students' request, the cost was lowered to \$300.

Richard D. Berlin III, director of the Office of Campus Dining, said in April that the cost of House Dining membership costs had risen by \$25 each year for several years in order to match the increasing costs of wages and food. Students with House Dining membership, which is mandatory for residents of undergraduate dormitories with dining halls, pay half price for most food at dining halls.

In early May, Baker House's dining committee issued a report showing that the average Baker resident loses \$125 per semester because of membership in the House Dining program. Only about 13 percent of residents break even.

According to the committee's presentation to Campus Dining, Baker Dining loses \$100,000 every term, an amount that is almost covered by the money students lose from participa-

tion in House Dining. Even though most residents the committee surveyed said they were satisfied with the food, three-quarters did not think the dining membership was worth it.

"We hope that MIT acknowledges that there are serious problems with the current [dining] system," David Dryjanski '07, a member of the Baker House Dining committee, said in an e-mail in May. "We understand that drastic changes cannot be made overnight, but would like to see [the Office of Campus Dining] increase transparency, engage the [Undergraduate Association] Dining Committee in its changes, and present a timeline for system-wide changes."

Baker House residents asked for the fee to be set to \$300, and decreased by \$25 each year until it reached the original price of the program. Soon thereafter, MIT announced that the fee would be frozen at \$325 for up to

see *Dining* on page 6 ►►



Omari Stephens—The Tech

Pritchett Dining (pictured here in April 2007) was closed during the summer in response to discontent from East Campus residents who said that dining halls do not gel with east campus culture.

Recording Industry Sends Demand Letters

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg

The Recording Industry Association of America tried a new legal tactic in the past year: the association sent 63 letters to MIT in 2007 and 19 more in January 2008, asking for money and threatening to file copyright infringement lawsuits against MIT community members.

Each letter is addressed to MIT directly and contains the IP address of a person the RIAA says shared copyrighted music on the Internet. MIT can usually identify the person who is using a particular IP address on its network, and at the RIAA's request, MIT has forwarded

the demand letters to each IP address's user.

In the letters, the RIAA threatens to file a "John Doe" copyright infringement lawsuit and to file a subpoena which will identify a target; the association threatens that if it wins such a lawsuit, the target is responsible for at least \$750 per song in statutory minimum damages.

So far most students have signed a settlement letter with the RIAA and have paid money, usually \$3,000 to \$5,000, in exchange for not being sued. One student told *The Tech* in 2008 that he planned not to settle and will challenge the RIAA's lawsuit.

Feb. 5: Biological Engineering Associate Professor James L. Sherley begins a hunger strike outside the provost's office, protesting what he says were racist motives behind the denial of his tenure.

Feb. 6: At the Cambridge Planning Board's annual town gown meeting, MIT reveals plans to construct the long-awaited Media Lab expansion; a Sloan School of Management expansion; a new cancer research facility at the corner of Main St. and Ames St.; and a new graduate dormitory, NW35, to be called Ashdown House.

Feb. 8: Executive Vice President Theresa M. Stone SM '76 says that NW35 will have a fourth floor after all. Facing a budget overrun, administrators had decided in early January to eliminate the fourth floor of what was originally designed to be a five-story building; this decision provoked an outcry from students who felt they were not included in the decision-making process.

Feb. 9: The Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority has decided not to renew a two-year housing lease, *The Tech* reports. The reason for the decision was not financial, said incoming AEPi President Elizabeth Katcoff '08. All sisters will move back to campus beginning in the fall.

Feb. 9: A record 154 bids were given out to women who completed the sorority recruitment process, *The Tech* reports. Alpha Phi had the most new members, according to the Panhellenic Association.

Feb. 13: Harvard University approves the appointment of Drew Gilpin Faust, Civil War historian and Harvard dean, as its 28th president. Faust, who was inaugurated on Oct. 12, is Harvard's first woman president.

Feb. 14: Marc A. Kastner, head of the Department of Physics, will be the new dean of science, MIT announces. Kastner took over for Robert J. Silbey on July 1.

Feb. 16: After 12 days of ingesting only water, vitamin supplements, and electrolytes, Sherley ends his hunger strike and issues a statement that his "demands are still on the table." MIT also issues a statement, saying that Sherley's protest has focused attention on "the effects that race may play in the hiring, advancement and experience" of minority faculty.

Feb. 16: Three MIT students — Kristina K. Brown '09, David Nawi G, and Matthew W. Petersen '09 — face felony charges after setting off a burglar alarm in the E52 Faculty Club in October 2006 in the middle of the night, *The Tech* reports. The three students are being charged with trespassing and breaking and entering with the intent to commit a felony.

Feb. 20: Toxicology studies of Mengyao "May" Zhou '04 found toxic levels of diphenhydramine, a sedative and antihistamine, in her system, *The Tech* reports. Zhou, a Stanford University graduate student, was found dead in the trunk of her car on Jan. 25 in what the Santa Rosa police believe was a suicide.

Hacking Tradition Under Fire?

By Angeline Wang

After students were found exploring the MIT Faculty Club by the Campus Police late on a Saturday night and found themselves facing felony charges, MIT found itself struggling to define exactly how it valued the hacking community. The result of MIT's soul-searching, a statement and a set of guidelines to be included in the student handbook, was drafted throughout 2007 with input from students.

In a recent draft of the revised guidelines, MIT endorses hacking as a tradition to be preserved and outlines rules that hackers should follow — rules based on the well-known Hacker's Code of Ethics. Additionally, all future cases involving unauthorized access will be brought to the faculty-student Committee on Discipline. The statement and guidelines await one further round of review before they will be made public.

The Faculty Club incident

In October 2006, three MIT students set off a burglar alarm in the E52 Faculty Club in the middle of the night and were found by the MIT Police. The case was taken to the Middlesex County Cambridge District Court.

The students — Kristina K. Brown '09, David Nawi, and Matthew W. Petersen '09 — were charged with breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony and trespassing. Additionally, Petersen was charged with possession of burglarious tools for carrying a slide, an L-shaped piece of metal that can be used to open some doors.

According to a joint statement from

their attorneys, the students "had absolutely no intent to do any harm." They were "engaged in a longstanding tradition among MIT students of after-hours exploration of the university campus," the statement continues.

Motions to dismiss were filed for all three students on the grounds that there was no evidence the students broke into the building and that there was no evidence the students intended to commit a felony.

Then-MIT Police Chief John DiFava said in February that he believed all elements of an apparent felony breaking and entering were present that evening and that his officers were justified in issuing a summons to court. "I support the officers' decision at the time," DiFava said.

"How do we know a hacker from a thief?" DiFava said. "This whole issue of hacking or not hacking, that's not a police matter."

Thefts of items in the Faculty Club had been reported prior to the October incident, which may have influenced the officers' decisions that night.

The narrative filed with the police report states that MIT Police Officers Sean C. Munnely and Duane R. Keegan responded to a burglar alarm in the Faculty Club at approximately 1:50 a.m. on Oct. 22, 2006 and found Brown, Petersen, and Nawi in the kitchen. The students were found near an open panel in the wall that leads to a crawl space.

The narrative, written by Munnely,

states that the elevator used to reach the sixth floor Faculty Club would only take the officers to the fifth floor. The elevators are supposed to be locked so that they will not travel to the sixth floor when the Faculty Club is closed. The narrative also states that there was a visible "no trespassing" sign on the door that opened onto the sixth floor from the stairwell.

Nawi's motion moved to dismiss conflicts with the police's story, stating that the elevator functioned without restriction that night, taking the three students to the sixth floor, and that there were no signs indicating that access to the sixth floor was not permitted after-hours. "Mr. Nawi and his friends did not access the 6th floor by a stairwell," the motion states.

After the arrest became widely known in February 2007, some students and community members became concerned that this case was indicative of a change in internal policy regarding how students caught hacking would be treated in the future. In most cases, students caught hacking in unauthorized areas would be brought before MIT's Committee on Discipline, where they would be given fines or community service.

"I have never heard of students being given a felony without something else involved," either a violent activity or a theft, said Joseph T. Foley '98, who is friends with the students involved. "This sets a really bad precedent at MIT. These people were not doing anything strange.

They were just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Then-Undergraduate Association President Andrew T. Lukmann '07 (currently a *Tech* photographer) said in February that there was a strong consensus among MIT administrators that what happened in this case "is an isolated incident and is not indicative of a change in policy."

The MIT administration also faced pressure from concerned faculty and alumni. At the Feb. 21 faculty meeting, Professor Harold Abelson PhD '73 raised the issue to determine "what MIT is planning to do now."

"I think that there was a lapse in MIT procedures that resulted in this case getting so far along without the top administration knowing about it," Abelson said in an e-mail in February.

At the meeting, Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 told the faculty that administrators were working with the district attorney's office to move the felony trials out of the Cambridge court system to an internal Committee on Discipline process.

The charges against the students were dropped on Feb. 28, when the prosecution filed *nolle prosequi* orders for the three students, indicating that they would not move forward on the charges.

Nawi's order states that the prosecution spoke with R. Greg Morgan, general counsel for MIT, and that "Mr. Morgan on behalf of MIT has requested the case be dismissed, so MIT may handle this matter internally and administratively, as they have done in the past in similar situations. The Commonwealth also spoke with Chief DiFava of the MIT Police who indicated that the MIT Police would be in agreement with a dismissal."

Students and alumni involved in the hacking community helped to pay the legal bills of the three students. Over \$10,000 had been raised by the beginning of March.

Hacking guidelines drafted

Discussions between administrators, student leaders, and four or five members of the hacking community began in the spring and have resulted in a hacking statement and guidelines that are pending one more round of approval, according to UA Senator Steven M. Kelch '08.

"The guidelines are coming about because there has always been ambiguity as to how MIT would handle its position on hacking," Kelch said in October.

The guidelines, which will be added to the student handbook, will include three parts, UA President Martin F. Holmes '08 said in October. The first is an MIT statement supporting the preservation of the hacking tradition; the second is the restatement of the hacker's code of ethics; and the third is a policy on unauthorized access.

The statement on hacking is the big change, Kelch said. "MIT is finally taking a stance on hacking," he said, and is recognizing that hacking is a tradition

see *Hacking* on page 6 ▶▶

Eric D. Schmiel—The Tech

MIT hackers abide by a written code of ethics that is painted on the wall of an MIT basement.

HACKING ETHICS

The safety of yourself, of others, and of property should have highest priority. Safety is more important than pulling off a hack or getting through a door.

Be subtle; leave no evidence you were there.

Brute force is the last resort of the incompetent.

Leave things as you found them or better. Cause no permanent damage during hacks and while hacking. If you find something broken, call F-IXIT.

Do not steal anything; if you must borrow something, leave a note saying when it will be returned and remember to return it.

Do not drop things without a ground crew to make sure no one is underneath.

Sign-ins are not graffiti and should not be seen by the general public. Sign-ins exhibit one's pride in having found an interesting location and should be seen only by other hackers.

Real hackers are not proud of discovering Lobby 7, random basements, or restrooms. Keep sign-ins small and respect other hackers' sign-ins.

Never drink and hack.

Never hack alone. Have someone who can get help in an emergency.

Know your limitations and do not exceed them. If you do not know how to open a door, climb a shaft, etc., then learn from someone who knows before trying.

Learn how not to get caught, but if you do get caught, accept gracefully and cooperate fully.

Share your knowledge and experience with other hackers.

Above all, exercise common sense.

Housing Sees Ashdown, Next House Changes in 2007

By Elijah Jordan Turner

As construction on new graduate dormitory NW35 continued throughout the year, MIT Housing decided on the fate of Building W1, opened a new cultural house, and extended Residence Exploration to freshmen placed in Next House.

A new Ashdown, a new W1

For many students, the biggest news in housing in 2007 was the construction of new graduate residence NW35 (to be called Ashdown) and the renovation of the existing Ashdown (Building W1) into an undergraduate residence.

In January 2007, Sherwin Greenblatt '62, then-interim executive vice president, announced that the fourth floor of NW35 would be eliminated from the building due to rising costs. The unexpected decision provoked an outcry from students who were involved in the initial design process, during which administrators had promised to maintain transparency.

Greenblatt's replacement, Theresa M. Stone SM '76, reversed his decision when she took office in early February.

The residence's cost was projected to be \$115 million, well above its original budget of \$104 million.

Based on the requests of graduate student leadership, NW35 will retain some of the features of the current Ashdown residence, including a new Thirsty Ear Pub and a new dining room to replace the large Hulsizer Room. MIT is also considering setting up dining service in the new Hulsizer Room. Building NW35 will be called Ashdown Hall, and it is currently scheduled to open by fall 2008.

- New graduate residence NW35 will open in fall 2008
- W1 will close in the fall for two years of extensive renovations
- iHouse residents focus on international development
- Next House freshmen will finally be allowed to participate in REX



Eric D. Schmiedl—The Tech

Building W1, currently known as Ashdown, will undergo a complete renovation before it reopens as an undergraduate dormitory in the fall of 2010.

Meanwhile, W1 will remain empty for two years while MIT renovates the building. The new Ashdown, NW35, will house 68 undergraduates for those two years. The Senior Segue program, in which undergraduates who said they planned to go to graduate school at MIT were housed in various graduate dormitories and paid undergraduate rates, will be discontinued.

It is as yet unclear how much money has been budgeted for the W1 renovations, who will be in charge of the renovations, or where the money will come from.

A 10-student "founders group" will be assembled soon and will begin to plan the culture of W1, in a model which was tried for Simmons Hall. Because W1 is expected to open in fall 2010, only current freshmen will

have the opportunity to live in the new dorm. But upperclassmen will be allowed to apply to and serve in the founders group.

Director of Housing Dennis Collins said he expected that some students would never have a chance to live in the hall but would still be interested in helping to establish it. He said that more details about the founders group should be available in and how to apply to it should appear within the next month.

International House opens

International House, a living group focused on international development, opened in New House 1 in fall 2007 in 21 undergraduate residents making up 14 different nationalities. It replaces Russian House, which closed in New House 1 in 2005.

iHouse was designed as a "living and learning community," said Urban Studies and Planning Professor Bish Sanyal. Residents are expected to carry out international development projects and to attend dinners and other events with an international focus.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for me because I'm interested in architecture and urban planning and there are lots of international development projects in these fields," iHouse Graduate Resident Tutor Tsitsi I. Gora G said in September.

Like most of MIT's cultural houses, iHouse allows "social membership" for people who want to get involved with its projects but who don't live in

see *Housing* on page 6 ►►



Aaron Sampson—The Tech

International House President Priyanka Jain '09 and Raja H.R. Bobbili '08 cut the ribbon to officially open iHouse as a new undergraduate residence on Sept. 4, 2007.

Successful Year for Fraternity, Sorority Recruitment

By Nick Semenkovich

Both fraternities and sororities saw increases in their bids this year, following some changes in rush.

For the first time since 2002, the Panhellenic Association decided to move sorority recruitment to the fall. According to Annika S. Larsson '08, former Panhel president, the move was made to provide a support system of upperclassmen for incoming students. Larsson said that spring recruitment had posed problems because many women were off campus during Independent Activities Period.

Fall 2007 sorority rush resulted in 163 bids.

In December, Panhel revealed its goal to add an additional sorority to the five currently at MIT. The goal is for the new sorority to join MIT in fall 2008. A sixth sorority would strengthen the Panhel community and add diversity, while reducing each member class to create a closer feel within each chapter, Panhel executive board members said in December.

Fraternity members were allowed to wear Greek letters this rush. There were at least 317 new pledges, up from 299 in 2006.

Feb. 20: Timothy J. Berners-Lee, senior research scientist at the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, is honored with the Charles Stark Draper Prize in Washington D.C. for his development of the World Wide Web. Berners-Lee receives a gold medallion and a \$500,000 cash award as part of the prize.

Feb. 22: Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss and Imam Mohammed al-Asi, who both hold anti-Zionistic views concerning the formation of an Islamic state, speak at the Forum on American Progress, a choice viewed as controversial by both the Jewish and Muslim communities at MIT.

Feb. 28: Felony charges against three MIT students found in the E52 Faculty Club in October 2006 are dropped by the Middlesex County district attorney's office. The students contend they were hacking when found by the police; the case will be handled by MIT's Committee on Discipline.

March 2: Five professors — Yoel Fink, Jonathan Gruber, Charles E. Leiserson, James B. Orlin, and David Wallace — are honored as 2007 Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellows for demonstrating excellence in teaching.

March 4: Ronald H. Stowell, a postdoctoral research associate in the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center, passed away shortly after 3:30 a.m. His death was later ruled a suicide.

March 6: Rumors have cropped up regarding plans to replace Burton-Conner's kitchens with undergraduate rooms, though administrators claim there are no plans to do so, *The Tech* reports. The rumors prompted a petition, two bills by the Undergraduate Association, and a small flutter of e-mails across the bc-talk mailing list.

March 7: Over 4,000 community members lose e-mail access, as one of MIT's five e-mail servers, *po14.mit.edu*, crashes sometime before 8 a.m. Service was restored for everyone by March 10, followed by an unrelated outage of *po10* on March 12 and another outage of two Webmail servers early March 13.

March 15: mtvU and General Electric announce that Biodiesel@MIT won the Ecomagination Challenge, an energy conservation competition between college students, and will receive \$25,000 to help with the group's plan to reprocess used vegetable oil from dining halls into diesel fuel for SafeRide and Tech Shuttles. The team also won an Earth Day concert for MIT featuring Angels and Airwaves.

March 16: The MIT Libraries, supported by faculty, have canceled access to the Society of Automotive Engineers Web-based database of technical papers, rejecting the SAE's requirement that MIT accept the implementation of digital rights management technology.

March 16: The two-week Underclassmen Giving Campaign collected \$3,880 with 21 percent of underclassmen contributing, *The Tech* reports.

March 16: Julie Soriero, director of

MIT Discusses Hacking

►► from *Hacking* on page 4

that should be preserved.

However, it is a delicate balance for MIT, which could face legal liability if it were seen to condone illegal activity. "Most administrators do understand hacking," Kelch said. "They are willing to try to preserve that, but they can't condone dangerous activity."

One major change is that all future hacking cases dealing with unauthorized access will be brought to the faculty-student Committee on Discipline. Holmes said that the administration was very insistent on this point. In the past, hacking cases were handled by many different groups, including the MIT Police, deans, and the CoD, Kelch said. The committee has recognized that they "can't have multiple tracks," Kelch said. "It's too hard to be accountable."

Kelch said that the unauthorized access policy included in the guidelines would be general enough to go beyond hacking. UA Vice President Ali S. Wyne '08 said that the committee is working to achieve a balance between two extremes — giving too explicit a policy, one which delineates all possible hacks and penalties, and being too vague.

The unauthorized access policy proposed by former UA Vice President Jessie H. Lowell '07 in 2005 will not be used, according to Kelch. The proposed policy, listing very specific penalties for a first offense and repeat offenses, replaced the previous rooftop fines with community service. This service policy never went into effect, Kelch said, though some students have been given community service when found in unauthorized areas such as rooftops.

Additionally, a module on campus culture and hacking will be included in the training the CoD receives each year.

In preparation for the release of these guidelines, Chancellor Clay sent an e-mail out to all MIT students in October that said students must take full responsibility for their actions even while celebrating and protecting traditions such as hacking.

Clay said in October that the e-mail was prompted in part by "numerous events over the past couple years that have revealed a need to re-emphasize safety, responsibility, and integrity." Though he did not name specific events in his e-mail, Clay was referring to the Faculty Club incident as well a January 2006 incident in which an undergraduate fell through a skylight on the roof of Building 5.

"We cannot deny the fact that what was tolerated in the past, and may even have been celebrated, is now viewed different," Clay said in his e-mail to students, referring to changes in perception since Sept. 11, 2001.

"Dangerous or illegal behavior labeled as hacks is a risk for us all and threatens our ability to be as open as we have been in the past," Clay said. The October e-mail was also sent shortly after volunteers on the Charles River Cleanup Boat were injured by a piece of sodium that may have originated from an MIT sodium drop.

REX Open to Next House Freshmen

►► from *Housing* on page 5

the house.

The new community collaborates with the D-Lab international development class, which reserves four spots reserved for iHouse residents. D-Lab Senior Lecturer Amy B. Smith serves as House Fellow and lives in iHouse.

At the iHouse inauguration on Sept. 4, the 484 Phi Alpha Foundation presented the living group with \$50,000.

Residence Exploration for Next House freshmen

Next House residents found auspicious news in the December an-

nouncement that the incoming freshman class would get to participate in Residence Exploration.

Unlike most other freshmen, those placed into Next House by the summer housing lottery were in the past forbidden to switch dorms because doing so would interfere with the Residence-Based Advising program. The change in policy, pushed for by the Next House housemasters, means that freshmen who enter or leave Next House during REX will have to switch advisors.

Dormitory Council President Sarah C. Hopp '08 said in December that the change was beneficial for Next House residents. "They can focus on

getting a community that wants to live in Next House without worrying about not being able to move out," Hopp said.

This change does not apply to McCormick Hall, which also has Residence-Based Advising, because "RBA in McCormick has worked for seven years," McCormick Housemaster Charles H. Stewart III said. Few students placed in McCormick during the summer want to leave, according to Housing.

Both the date on which freshmen arrive on campus and the REX start date will be shifted slightly earlier for fall 2008 to accommodate these changes.

Dining Hall to Replace W1 Kitchens

►► from *Dining* on page 3

three years.

In April, Pritchett Dining started a trial run of an "all-you-care-to-eat" buffet in an attempt to get more students to eat there.

Then-East Campus President and current Dormitory Council President Sarah C. Hopp '08 said that new program was installed without any advance notice to the residents nearby. "Springing things like this upon students unannounced and without input shows what appears to be a lack of respect for students by the administration," Hopp said.

In a June 18 letter, East Campus residents voiced a deep discontent with Pritchett Dining; they said that students' kitchens are a major focal point of community-building, and that dining halls do not fit well with the east campus culture.

Pritchett was closed over the summer. The closure reduced MIT's dining costs by almost \$100,000, according to Berlin, and he used this cost reduction to reduce the price of House Dining back to \$300. MIT's contract with food vendor Sodexo lasts for three more years, and Berlin said in June that the space in Walker Memorial is unavailable for student use until the contract expires.

While Pritchett remains empty for now and its long-term fate is uncertain, Dining intends to use it for catered events for the immediate future. "Pritchett Dining was a very large investment for Campus Dining," Berlin said last week. "We are developing the location for catered event purposes, something that MIT has in short

supply." Berlin has also suggested that Pritchett's space could hold cooking classes for students who would rather cook than eat in a dining hall.

Students ask for feedback, administrators create committee

In March 2007, rumors circulated that the kitchens of undergraduate dormitory Burton-Conner were going to be removed to make way for additional undergraduate rooms. Although Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict stoutly denied these rumors, the Undergraduate Association still passed two resolutions emphasizing that Burton-Conner's kitchens are "focal points of the suite, floor, and dorm-wide community interactions" and are "indispensable to students."

The bill also asserted that the UA would only endorse proposals in which residents are included in the decision-making process.

Former UA Vice President Ruth Miller '07 said in March that she was wary of statements saying that no one intended to remove Burton-Conner's kitchens. "This seems to happen a lot, where [the administration] tells us there are no plans, then goes ahead anyway," she said.

While the Burton-Conner kitchens will remain untouched for now, the administration has decided to destroy other old kitchens. MIT announced in December that Ashdown House, which is scheduled to reopen as an undergraduate dormitory in fall of 2010 after renovations, will no longer have floor kitchens when it is reopened. Instead, MIT decided without any significant student input

that the new undergraduate dormitory will have a dining hall and dining program.

Students whose opinions were supposed to have mattered — members of the W1 Steering Group committee — were not pleased by this decision. Benjamin J. Bloom '08, a committee member, said he was concerned that the decision was made even before the W1 Steering Group commenced.

Despite several students' protests, Chancellor Phillip M. Clay PhD '75 stood by the Institute's decisions to install a dining hall in the future undergraduate dormitory. "The president's committed to dining. I'm committed to dining. Larry [Benedict]'s committed to dining," Clay said to *The Tech* in December. "We have not built in recent years a residence hall that does not have dining."

Benedict, in collaboration with the Office of Dining, gave students a voice when on Oct. 22 he charged the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining to investigate the structure of campus dining. The committee contains undergraduates, graduate students, faculty housemasters, and staff members, including Wilson and Berlin from the Office of Dining. MIT has also hired a consultant from Envision Strategies, an operational consulting and strategic planning company, to work with the committee.

"The committee was formed with the intention of recommending major reforms to MIT's dining system," said Undergraduate Association President Martin F. Holmes '08. Holmes said the committee should make dining at MIT "financially solvent," high-quality, and affordable.

New Deans, Administrators Appointed

By Nick Semenkovich

Three new deans were appointed as heads of MIT Schools, and a new graduate student dean was appointed, marking a large change in leadership.

Mark A. Kastner, former head of the Department of Physics, became the dean of science. David C. Schmittlein, formerly from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, became the dean of MIT's Sloan School of Management. Subra Suresh PhD '81, a professor in the Department of Material Science and Engineering, became the new dean of engineering.

Steven R. Lerman '72, professor of Civil and Environ-

mental Engineering, became the new dean for graduate students.

"One of my main goals as the dean is to blend academia and student social life in order to create relationships between faculty and students as well as a strong graduate community in the northwest part of campus," Lerman said in June.

Amidst the sea of dean appointments, Barbara H. Lisakov and Wesley L. Harris were appointed to fill the associate provost for faculty equity post, which was created in September 2006. The appointments were made after recommendations by the race initiative committee, and came after James L. Sherley's tenure controversy.

Hunger Strike Ignites Discussions of Racism at MIT

By Joyce Kwan

In 2007, MIT garnered attention in an unexpected light — through allegations of racism in its tenure process. An African American associate professor in the Biological Engineering Department charged that racism influenced his tenure denial, prompting his hunger strike, the resignation of an executive director, the withdrawal of an alumnus, and the initiation of an Institute-wide study on underrepresented minority issues.

James L. Sherley alleged that racism tarnished his tenure case and ultimately influenced his tenure denial. Denied tenure in December 2004, Sherley urged administrators to reexamine his case on the basis that BE's decision was affected by racism and conflicts of interest. After two grievance reviews ruled his case fair, Provost L. Rafael Reif concluded that he would not overturn the denial.

In December 2006, after the grievance reviews and Reif's decision, Sherley sent an e-mail to MIT faculty members calling for support. The letter, titled "A plea for help to end racism at MIT," detailed Sherley's version of the events leading to his situation at the time.

In the letter, Sherley claimed to have received inadequate laboratory space because Robert A. Brown, School of Engineering dean at the time, said "he was not going to give lab space to a Black man." Yet after the BE department gained significant laboratory space Douglas A. Lauffenburger, head of BE, did "nothing to rectify the situation," giving "it all to White faculty members" despite his requests, Sherley said.

Also, while BE considered his case, a member of the MIT Corporation contacted Sherley about his race and his criticism of Brown, an improper act, Sherley said in the letter. Such an occurrence, along with Lauffenburger's disregard for his requests for laboratory space, should be sufficient to overturn Lauffenburger's denial, Sherley argued.

Yet more problems arose throughout Sherley's case. One of Sherley's internal letters of recommendation came from Lauffenburger's wife, BE Professor Linda G. Griffith, with whom Sherley had openly hostile relations. Griffith, Sherley said, failed to appreciate his controversial research concerning adult stem cells. "They might tolerate and even celebrate such a challenge from a White faculty member, but never from one who is Black."

Sherley said that Lauffenburger solely arbitrated his tenure case, and that conflict of interest issues seeped into his case because Griffith supplied one of Sherley's recommendation letters.

At the conclusion of his letter, Sherley demanded that tenure be granted to him and that Reif resign. Otherwise, "If their wrongful deeds are not corrected by February 5, 2007, I will go on hunger strike outside the MIT Provost's office ... I will either see the Provost resign and my hard-earned tenure granted at MIT, or I will die defiantly



David M. Templeton—The Tech

James L. Sherley tacks up sheets of stickers on the first floor of the Student Center proclaiming "Say No To June 30," which refers to his last official date of employment at MIT after being denied tenure.

right outside his office."

Sherley's hunger strike begins

Sherley began his hunger strike, which ultimately lasted 12 days, outside Reif's office on Feb. 5, 2007. Surrounded by media, supporters, and those simply curious about the issue, Sherley appeared at peace, even optimistic, enthusiastically speaking to reporters about his plight.

"My motivation for this protest is not the fact that I have been denied an opportunity for tenure. It is because of the reason that I have been denied this opportunity ... What I do now is not a rash reaction to disappointment, it is a well-reasoned self-sacrifice for change," Sherley told *The Tech* several weeks before his strike.

Legal approaches would not suffice in attracting attention to the source of the problem, Sherley said. "I had to find some way to get people to stop and say there must be something really of great gravity going on here for someone to go to this step."

Sherley stationed outside the provost's office from 9 a.m. to noon every weekday to publicly protest. He had altered his stance, demanding that Reif receive "some form of censure" — Reif's resignation was no longer necessary — while maintaining that tenure be granted to him and that MIT acknowledge racism as the determining factor in his case and those before him.

Shortly after Sherley's hunger strike began, a letter signed by MIT faculty, including Institute Professor Noam Chomsky, circulated around campus urging the reexamination of Sherley's case by a committee consisting of members from both inside and outside of MIT.

Conflict of interest and racial discrimination charges clash against the core of MIT values, therefore, "it is imperative that they be thoroughly pursued," the letter said. It continued, detailing the provost's letters to Sherley, arguing that the provost's reasons for denying him tenure were not sufficient. "Racial attitudes, as is well known, are usually complicated and deeply nuanced."

After 12 days, Sherley terminated his hunger strike for which he ingested only water, electrolytes, and vitamin supplements. None of his demands

were met when he ended his strike, but Sherley said he terminated the strike believing that MIT would reassess his case with the aid of an external panel. MIT, however, said it made no such agreement.

MIT's side of the story

In a January 2007 letter sent to the faculty, Reif delineated the two grievance reviews Sherley received. Sherley approved the initial lineup of committee members and was given the opportunity to review and modify the charges sent to the committee both times, Reif said in the letter.

The committee ruled Sherley's tenure process adequate and fair, persuading him to not overturn Sherley's tenure denial, a final decision, Reif said. He concluded the letter with the announcement that a committee would be organized "to undertake a comprehensive, rigorous and systematic study" of minority issues at MIT.

On the first day of Sherley's strike, the BE senior faculty released a statement to the MIT community stating their assurance "that race did not play any role" in denying Sherley tenure.

Later, in March, the BE senior faculty circulated a more detailed e-mail explaining their decision. They refuted Sherley's allegation that the decision to grant him tenure rested solely on the BE department head, explaining that Lauffenburger did not vote on the case and acted only as a moderator of discussion. The "decision not to carry Prof. Sherley's case forward reflected the vote of the faculty," they said in the e-mail.

Also, Sherley's performance did not meet standards, they said. During his years at MIT, Sherley published only six peer-reviewed publications describing original research, two of which were based on work he had conducted in his previous position at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. "[T]he faculty assess ... in particular, the impacts of peer-reviewed articles," but his publication record did not meet BE standards, the BE senior faculty said.

The letter continued to explain that about two-thirds of Sherley's \$1.5 million pre-tenure fund was obtained through several grants for proj-

see *Sherley* on page 10 ►►

athletics for Colorado College, has been named the new head of the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation and director of athletics at MIT, *The Tech* reports.

March 23: Martin F. Holmes '08 and Ali S. Wyne '08 won the Undergraduate Association elections for president and vice president in a landslide victory, *The Tech* reports.

March 23: The MIT Pistol team claims the national championship at a three-day competition held at West Point in mid-March, beating out the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies, *The Tech* reports.

March 30: A Department of Defense investigation into longstanding allegations of fraud in a Lincoln Laboratory-led review of national missile defense tests has concluded that neither the review team nor Lincoln Laboratory management is guilty of research misconduct. The DoD investigative report pointed out problems with how the review's results were presented — namely that critical information was omitted in the study — but said that these actions "did not rise to the level research misconduct."

April 3: MIT's team took third place in the 2006, 67th annual William Lowell Putnam Math Competition, behind teams from Princeton University and Harvard University, *The Tech* reports.

April 4: Leeland B. Ekstrom G and Johnna D. Powell G are elected president and vice president of the Graduate Student Council. They will take office on May 2.

April 10: Ryan M. Davis '10, apparently required to withdraw from MIT after a March 12 incident in which MIT Police allegedly found illegal drugs in his East Campus room, has been missing for over a week, *The Tech* reports. He was last seen at the Mount Holyoke College campus.

April 13: Staff members of the California Institute of Technology's student newspaper, *The California Tech*, distribute 11,000 spoof copies of *The Tech* to the MIT community as Campus Preview Weekend begins.

April 13: The Department of Chemistry is revamping its laboratory curriculum for the fall semester, *The Tech* reports. Three labs required for Course V majors will be replaced by 12 four-unit "module" classes intended to give students more flexibility in scheduling.

April 16: Thirty-three are killed in a shooting rampage on the campus of Virginia Tech.

April 19: Maureen R. Lynch, 2.007 (Design and Manufacturing I) course administrator, is surprised with a four foot left-handed aluminum screw during a laboratory period. She raised \$1,920.67 in the annual Alpha Phi Omega Big Screw contest. A total of \$2,919.09 will be donated to Lynch's charity of choice, the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

April 19: Following opposition by MIT and other universities, the Society of Automotive Engineers halts implementation of digital

Marilee Jones Leaves Behind Complicated Legacy

By Marissa Vogt

Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones resigned abruptly in April 2007 after admitting to lying on her résumé, shocking the MIT community and putting herself and MIT in the national spotlight.

When MIT administrators discovered that Jones had, at various times, falsely claimed degrees from three universities, she was asked to resign publicly to preserve the integrity of the Institute. Jones issued a brief statement through the MIT News Office apologizing to the community and saying that she “did not have the courage to correct my résumé.” Since then, Jones has been unresponsive to attempts to reach her, and MIT administrators have been relatively terse on what Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 called in April a “very sad case of personal tragedy.” These circumstances have complicated the question of what will be Marilee Jones’ lasting impression on the Institute.

Jones had worked in the Admissions Office since 1979 and became dean of admissions on Jan. 1, 1998. During her 28 years at MIT, admission to the Institute became increasingly more competitive and the incoming classes became more diverse. As the associate director of admissions, Jones was tasked with increasing the percentage of female students, which grew from 28 percent in 1985 to 42 percent in 1996.

Michael C. Behnke, director of admissions during that time, said in an e-mail that although Jones was his point person on female recruitment, the increase was the result of a team effort by the Admissions Office and was supported by MIT administrators,

including then-President Paul E. Gray '54. “Marilee has obviously brought some discredit on herself, and I would hate to see any of that reflected on the increase in female enrollment that happened while she was there,” Behnke said.

When Behnke left MIT to take a position at the University of Chicago, Jones was named interim director of admissions and a national search began to find Behnke’s replacement. “By conducting a serious national search, we wanted to ensure that any internal candidates would be measured against the highest standards,” Professor Rosalind H. Williams, dean of students and undergraduate education from 1995 to 2000, said in an e-mail.

The search committee, which included then-Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 and other MIT administrators, eventually chose Jones for the job based on her familiarity with MIT and the admissions process and her commitment to diversity and equity, Williams said. After Jones was selected, the chair of the search committee, then-Associate Dean of Engineering John B. Vander Sande told *The Tech*, “I feel confident that I can speak for the committee in saying that in Marilee Jones we have gained for MIT the best dean of admissions in the country.”

Jones was known nationally for her efforts to reduce the stress associated with the college admissions process. In her public statements and writings, including in her book *Less Stress, More Success: A New Approach to Guiding Your Teen Through College Admissions and Beyond* and a 2003 editorial for *USA Today*, Jones criticized the amount of pressure placed on students applying to college and encouraged



Wendy Gu—Tech File Photo

Former Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones resigned in April 2007 after it was discovered that she had misrepresented her educational information on her résumé.

high school students to participate in a few activities that they were passionate about rather than spreading themselves thin to make their applications appear more impressive. That attitude was reflected in MIT’s admissions decisions year after year, where “passion” was a common factor among admitted students.

“We look for people with passion — self-initiated, self-motivating individuals who get stoked up about something,” Jones told *The Tech* in 2001. She often became emotional when discussing her work, especially when referring

to the many well-qualified students who could not be admitted to MIT.

Outspoken but also approachable, Jones was well-liked by most students until her resignation, though her strong opinions were sometimes polarizing. Jones drew a particularly strong amount of student criticism for a 2001 essay in the faculty newsletter in which she refers to students born after 1979 as “millennials,” a generation that requires praise, instant gratification, and a strong amount of guid-

see [Jones](#) on page 10 ▶▶

2007 Admissions And Financial Aid By the Numbers

- 12,433 applicants for Class of 2011
- 2 percent increase in early applications, attributed to Harvard and Princeton eliminating early admissions
- 1,070: the target size of the freshman class
- 12 percent acceptance rate for all applicants the Class of 2011, a record low
- 21 percent acceptance rate for women to the Class of 2011
- 9 percent acceptance rate for men to the Class of 2011
- 20 students admitted off the waitlist
- 69 percent yield for the Class of 2011, a record high
- 58 countries and 49 states represented (not North Dakota)
- \$1.6 million received by MIT students in Pell grants, federal grants offered to the neediest
- \$87.8 million offered to students in financial aid
- \$34,986: cost of tuition for the 2007–08 academic year, a 4.1 percent increase from 2006–07

Changes at Peer Institutions Affect MIT Admissions As MIT Continues Its Early Action Program

By Marissa Vogt

MIT saw the effects of major changes in the admissions and financial aid policies at some of the Institute’s competing universities this year.

Harvard and Princeton ended their early admissions programs in the fall after claiming that such programs put low-income and minority applicants at a disadvantage. As a result, this year saw a rise in the number of early action applications at Yale, the University of Chicago, Georgetown University, and MIT.

Though MIT’s 13 percent increase in early action applications was similar to last year’s increase and smaller than the increases at other schools, the elimination of Harvard and Princeton’s early admissions programs “had an effect” on the numbers, Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 said in November.

The full effect of the change is unlikely to be felt until the spring, when students — whether admitted early or regular action — choose whether or not to accept MIT’s offer of admission. MIT’s yield, or the percentage of admitted students who choose to attend, has increased steadily in the past few years, but Schmill says he expects it to decrease this year as a result of the changes at Harvard and Yale.

“There are likely to be students in our applicant pool who have Harvard or Princeton as their first choice and in the past would have applied early to one of those schools,” Schmill said in November. Though yield is difficult to predict, the end result of this year’s changes

could be a more conservative number of acceptances than MIT has seen in recent years.

Harvard announced further changes in December when it pledged additional financial aid for students from middle-class and upper-middle-class families. Under the new plan, families with annual incomes between \$120,000 and \$180,000 will be expected to pay 10 percent of their income, though families with incomes below \$60,000 will continue to pay nothing.

Earlier this month, Yale announced a similar plan that applies to students from families earning up to \$200,000.

Since 2004, when Harvard announced its first plan to eliminate costs for low-income families, MIT — whose roughly \$10 billion endowment pales in comparison to those of Harvard and Yale — has yet to form any competitive financial aid policies. The most significant financial aid changes in recent years came in 2006 when MIT announced its Pell grant matching program to use Institute funds to match the amount of federal Pell grants for eligible students.

Both the number of MIT students receiving Pell grants and the average amount awarded to MIT students increased for the 2006–07 academic year. The number of recipients increased 3.5 percent and the average amount increased 5.5 percent from the previous year, Director of Financial Aid Daniel Barkowitz said in August. Nearly \$1.6 million in the form of Pell grants was given to 575 eligible students for the 2006–07 academic year.

Education Sees Course Changes, Classes for Freshman Experience

By Yuri Hanada

Education at MIT in 2007 saw a number of changes: two undergraduate courses revamped their curricula; opportunities for freshmen expanded with the addition of project-based engineering and foundational Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences classes; and two degree programs neared acceptance by MIT.

Courses VI overhauled

In the spring, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science announced an overhaul of the Course VI curriculum. The changes, designed to emphasize flexibility, hands-on experience, and current research, represent the first significant modifications to the curriculum in three decades.

EECS Department Head W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80 said that the new curriculum aims to broadly survey EECS and to give students practical, hands-on work. One such new survey class, Introduction to EECS I (6.01) will replace Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001), which was taught for the last time in the fall.

Course VI sophomores will continue on a more specialized route, selecting classes from a set of foundation subjects that contain the fundamental portions of the material currently taught in courses like Circuits and Electronics (6.002), Signals and Systems (6.003), and Computation Structures (6.004).

One surprise in the Course VI revamp was the mid-fall announcement that the popular Laboratory in Software Engineering class (6.170), famous for the intense amounts of work it de-

manded from students, would not be taught in the spring or in the future. Department administrators and faculty said that the substantial overlap between 6.170 and Principles of Software Development (6.005) warranted the cancellation of 6.170.

Course V gets lab 'modules'

As an engineering program changed its focus, so too did a program in the School of Science. The Department of Chemistry, Course V, introduced a new set of 12 four-unit classes, or "modules," to replace its existing three mandatory laboratory classes. Three modules comprise each of four new subjects: Introduction to Experimental Chemistry (5.35), Biochemistry and Organic Lab (5.36), Organic and Inorganic Lab (5.37), and Physical Chemistry Lab (5.38).

The existing lab classes Introductory Chemical Experimentation (5.311) and Intermediate Chemical Experimentation (5.32) were replaced in the fall by several of the new modules. Advanced Chemical Experimentation and Instrumentation (5.33) will be replaced in fall 2008.

More classes aimed at freshmen

In fall 2006 and spring 2007, six experimental project-based classes, aimed at freshmen, were taught for the first time. Out of 999 freshmen (now sophomores), 147 took such a class, according to a September 2007 Faculty Newsletter article by Professor Dennis M. Freeman PhD '86, Elizabeth D. Cooper, a senior project manager in the Office of Faculty Support, and William A. Lucas, the Cambridge-MIT Institute's executive director.

The article reported that students

who took the project-based classes were more likely than other freshmen to report interest in new areas, to have done "more than the required work" in subjects because they were interesting, and that "faculty now know me well enough to write a good letter of recommendation for me." The article noted that the female students were especially well-served by the classes: they were more likely than other female freshmen to report that "I have been able to talk to faculty outside of class about my interests."

The students taking project-based classes were less likely to agree that they had maintained "a balance between my academic work and other aspects of my life," suggesting that these courses could contribute to heavy course loads. The six project-based classes taught in 2006-07, along with two new classes, are scheduled to be taught in the 2007-08 school year.

Elsewhere in the HASS world, various departments offered freshman classes focused around themes or foundational ideas, including How to Stage a Revolution (21H.001) and The Art of the Probable (21H.017).

Two new degree programs

In 2007, two new degrees were in the works. The MIT Comparative Media Studies (CMS) degree program, a five year experiment by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, cleared most of the technical hurdles to become a permanent major at MIT; it now awaits approval from the Faculty Policy Committee and from the Institute faculty.

The Sloan School of Management is also undergoing the approval process for a new Masters program in Finance.

rights management controls aimed at restricting access to SAE documents.

April 20: A body that washed to show on Cape Cod on April 19 is identified as Daniel J. Barclay '07, who has been missing since April 8. The death is later ruled a suicide, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, though Barclay's parents are working to appeal the ruling.

April 21: Ivan D. Dimitrov '10 passes away at Brigham and Women's Hospital after losing control of his motorcycle on Storrow Drive in the early morning.

April 23: Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones resigns after it was discovered that she misrepresented her academic credentials. Jones, who had been employed at MIT for 28 years, had a bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Rose but allegedly claimed both master's and bachelor's degrees on her resume from schools she did not graduate from — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Albany Medical College, and Union College.

April 24: Ten months after assuming her role as director of the Office of Student Mediation and Community Standards, Veronica Mendoza '96 will be leaving MIT at the end of May to resume practicing law in California, *The Tech* reports. She is the third person to leave this post in the past four years.

April 27: The Ying Yang Twins and Ozomatli perform in the Spring Weekend concert in Johnson Athletic Center.

April 30: Sarah C. Hopp '08 and James T. Albrecht '08 are elected as president and executive vice president of Dormitory Council.

May 2: MIT receives 23 pre-litigation settlement letters from the RIAA, alleging copyright infringement and music piracy; the letters were subsequently forwarded on to the students.

May 4: The Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation will charge students a \$40 access fee for use of its facilities for the entire summer, *The Tech* reports. Previously, access to DAPER facilities was free during the summer, paid for by the mandatory Student Life Fee. The fee will continue for summer 2008.

May 4: The Baker House Dining Committee releases a report saying that the Preferred Dining program is a loss for Baker students. The committee found that the average Baker resident loses \$125 per term through Preferred Dining.

May 11: Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 reports a record 69 percent yield for the Class of 2011, with 1,053 of the 1,533 admitted students choosing to enroll. MIT later admits students off the waitlist, and as of June 1, 1,077 students had chosen to enroll. Among those who have said they will attend, every state is represented, except North Dakota.

May 11: In response to the May 4 Baker Dining report, Campus Dining decides to freeze the Preferred Dining fee at \$325 for up to three years. Preferred Dining

Technology Upgrades Across the Institute

By Nick Semenkovich

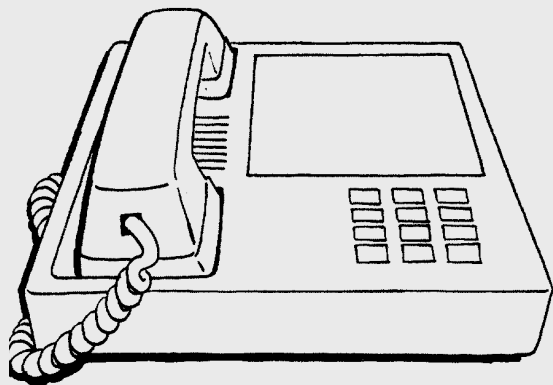
Despite an early failure in MIT's e-mail system in March, this year was a smooth year for Information Services and Technology. A few technology changes visibly impacted the student body, such as a change in phone and Internet service billing.

As of July, MIT removed the monthly charges for phone and Internet services, replacing the billing with a one-time charge. Though this change didn't have much of an impact on departments who now pay up front — rather than monthly — for services, student groups saw a huge change.

Since student group accounts are a part of the Division of Student Life, groups no longer directly pay for Internet or phone service. Though DSL may choose to pass the cost on to student groups, they have not done so yet. According to statistics available from the MIT Data Warehouse, student groups may pay a total of \$15,000 toward Internet and phone service.

Behind the scenes, the Institute saw many large upgrades. The MIT Regional Optical Network went online, which consists of over 1,500 miles of fiber optics and 72 channels capable of 10 Gigabit per second speeds, according to IS&T Network Manager Jeffrey I. Schiller '79. The network links MIT to New York City, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.

In the coming years, MIT hopes to expand the network to include international research organizations, increasing the ease of collaboration. IS&T also upgraded infrastructure behind the MIT Student Information System, which is behind student records, class scheduling, and other services.



MIT's Changing Face

By Nick Semenkovich

MIT saw the completion of a number of construction projects in 2007.

The new PDSI physics building, which unifies the department's offices, was completed after two years of construction. The building came in at \$50 million over budget.

A \$3 million overhaul of the MIT Museum was also completed, adding a new facade to the aging museum.

By year's end, plans for more projects emerged, such as a full renovation of W1 (the current Ashdown House) in preparation for an undergraduate residence in the fall of 2010.

Additionally, a \$100 million donation from David H. Koch '62 helped advance plans for a cancer research center.

In November, MIT announced that the 10-250 lecture hall would be closed from January 2008 through the spring semester for a complete renovation. In the fall, 10-250 will have new seating, carpeting, lighting, and climate control, along with cameras for OpenCourseWare recordings.

Construction work continued on the Media Lab Expansion and on the new Ashdown House (NW35).

Hunger Strike Leads to Resignations, Race Initiative

► from *Sherley* on page 7

ects whose principal investigator was Griffith. Also, Sherley's name was not listed in the original competing grant application.

CBI Head resigns, Sherley locked out

Just as awareness of Sherley's charges began to fade, Frank L. Douglas, head of the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation, announced his resignation in early June, attributing it to the "process and environment" surrounding Sherley's case. Douglas, an African American, said MIT breached an agreement to continue discussions with Sherley about his charges after Sherley ended his hunger strike.

In the e-mail announcing his resignation, Douglas said, "I leave because I would neither be able to advise young Blacks about their prospects of flourishing in the current environment, nor about avenues available to affect [sic] change when agreements or promises are transgressed." The issue for him, Douglas said, is not a matter of the accuracy of Sherley's allegations.

Sherley's deadline was approaching, yet no one's stance had changed. Despite his determination to continue working, on June 30, the day of his deadline, Sherley was barred from his office with locked doors.

Shortly after Sherley left, news spread that an active MIT alumnus had announced his decision to withdraw from activities supporting MIT. Bernard Loyd '83, an African American active in recruiting minorities to the Institute and a former MIT Corporation trustee, said MIT's actions were "not consistent with effort to maintain meritocracy at highest level." In Loyd's interpretation, Sherley and his supporters were reasonable in expecting MIT to review his charges. MIT, however, interpreted its role as a mediator for Sherley's exit, Loyd said.

Race Initiative will investigate minority recruitment

"We are working hard to accelerate our progress in recruiting and retaining underrepresented minority faculty," MIT said in a statement released in response to Loyd's withdrawal.

Early in the year, Reif had announced to the faculty, and later Hockfield to the entire MIT community, the launching of a study on minorities in academia, particularly the MIT environment. The study, called the Race Initiative, would be spearheaded by a

Viewpoints on Sherley's Hunger Strike, Racism at MIT

The Tech's opinion section received numerous letters and columns about James L. Sherley's hunger strike and the larger issues it raised. Presented here are a few excerpts.

Sylvia Sanders

Quite apart from arguments of fairness, process, conflict of interest, and so forth, the significant obstacles confronted by members of the MIT community who are minorities are being overlooked. Those obstacles and their effects need not manifest themselves in the open to influence outcomes. ... And yet, they are frequent, cumulative, and insidious. Without a thorough examination and discussion of the real situation of your minority colleagues, it is not possible to deem the process fair, and it is not realistic to expect that MIT will fulfill its stated mission of increasing minority representation.

I was the sole African American member of MIT's Biology Department from 1997–2001, when I resigned. Some of my experiences during that time undercut my status and represent the kind of racism that Professor Sherley is opposing and that his Bioengineering & Environmental Health colleagues claim does not exist.

Sanders was an assistant professor of biology at MIT from 1997–2001.

Ben Barres '76

... I am troubled that to my knowledge nearly all African-American faculty members that have come to MIT in science and engineering as assistant professors have failed to thrive, have not been tenured (or had to appeal a tenure denial), or have left science altogether. These faculty include Luther Williams, Cardinal Ward, Sylvia Sanders, Philip Phillips, and now James Sherley. All feel strongly that they were not treated fairly by MIT. Perhaps there are more I am unaware of. Sylvia Sanders' experiences were so bad that even though she was an HHMI investigator, she left MIT and dropped out of science altogether, and now teaches third grade down the street from where I live. ...

Sherley's hunger strike should prompt each of us to

ask ourselves if we could be contributors, even if unconsciously, to this problem. How many of us can be truly certain that we have not been deeply insensitive to pervasive racial barriers that we have not personally experienced?

Barres is a professor of neurobiology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Chi-Sang Poon

In the case of bias against female faculty, Vest made a historic move in 1999 conceding gender discrimination ...

As Professor Nancy Hopkins put it in 2003, "It took great courage and conscience [for Vest] to say this at that time. Even today, it is not universally accepted or understood. But this comment changed the lives of women scientists nationally and even internationally by greatly increasing awareness of this issue." ...

Will President Susan Hockfield rise to the same challenge on the racial discrimination issue?

Poon is a principal research scientist in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Barun Singh ECS '06

By equating the response of the administration to his hunger strike with the beating and lynching of civil rights activists in the '60s, Sherley is guilty of using racial hyperbole to manipulate the emotions of his audience and further his own objectives, whether they be as personal as getting tenure or as noble as fighting racism everywhere.

Ironically, individuals who practice race-baiting often cause themselves more harm than good. Such techniques may successfully quell dissenting viewpoints, but they also create resentment among those who have been strong-armed into silence. This resentment, with time, contributes to unnecessarily negative views of the minority community at large. Minorities fighting racism cannot afford to squander the good will of those sympathetic to their cause, thus winning the battle by losing the war.

Singh is a former Graduate Student Council president and was an opinion editor for The Tech in 2007.

committee of seven members, four of whom are underrepresented minorities, selected by the provost from each of the five schools.

A preliminary report released in late July stated that both quantitative and qualitative data would be gathered for a study on the underrepresented minority experience at MIT. Quantitative data would consist of "salary and salary merit increase data, rates of promotion, involvement in labs and centers," and "interview and hiring processes by department and School." Qualitative data would consist of mostly in-depth interviews with minority faculty.

The initiative may last one to two years, according to the report, because the committee was encouraged "to generate a deep and penetrating review of the issues at MIT."

In January 2008, Chemical Engineering Professor Paula T. Hammond '84, a member of the Race Initiative committee, said in an e-mail that the committee has collaborated with the Office of the Provost in addressing the "implementation of the short term recommendations from the report, many of which have now been implemented in some form."

The committee has begun gathering data for the quantitative aspect of the study and a "research team has been assembled to execute the one-on-one interviews that will be a part of the qualitative study as described in our preliminary report," Hammond said.

She said the past term has also included several meetings with "the minority faculty, the general faculty, faculty officers, the newly appointed

Associate Provosts for Faculty Equity and other members of the MIT community to address aspects" such as long- and short-term approaches to increase underrepresented minority faculty recruitment.

Besides Hammond, the initiative's current members are Emery N. Brown of the School of Science; Leslie K. Norford of the School of Architecture and Planning; Christine Ortiz of the School of Engineering; Marcus A. Thompson of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; and Lotte Bailyn of the Sloan School.

In September 2007, Professors Wesley L. Harris and Barbara H. Liskov were appointed to the position of associate provost for faculty equity. The position was created in September 2006, before Sherley's protest.

Jones' Lasting Legacy Remains to Be Seen

► from *Jones* on page 8

ance. "[Students] need to be involved in decision making, but they need for

us to make the final decisions," she wrote.

Many students resented the characterizations Jones made and took

particular offense to her claim that *in loco parentis* is necessary for students to thrive at MIT.

In recent years Jones has been a strong presence at Campus Preview Weekend, where she has given well-received speeches welcoming admitted students to the Institute and assuring them that they were not admitted by mistake.

At Jones' last CPW, held less than two weeks before her resignation was announced, she shared the stage with the admissions bloggers, whose online posts have become a popular way for prospective students to connect

with MIT.

Jones was also well-respected among administrators, faculty, and her colleagues in the Admissions Office. She received a 2001 MIT Excellence Award for Leading Change, given for her "visionary" approach to college admissions.

"She had strong and warm relations with many faculty members and a keen sense of MIT culture," Williams said. "She looked at individual applicants as individuals, valuing strength of character and accomplishment even if on the quirky side."

Admissions Demographics Over Time

Year	1985	1996	2007
Applicants	5,747	8,022	12,443
Admits	1,884	1,947	1,533
Percent Admitted	33%	24%	12%
Percent of Women in Entering Class	28%	42%	46%
Percent Ranking in Top Tenth*	82%	93%	98%

In 1985, Michael C. Behnke arrived at MIT as the new director of admissions. 1996 was the last full year that Behnke was at MIT; Marilee Jones replaced him.

* Percent refers to students whose high schools rank.

As Laptop Begins Production, OLPC Faces Competition



Arthur Petron—The Tech

In 2007, the One Laptop Per Child foundation began production of the XO laptop (pictured). The laptop faced challenges in the market from for-profit competition, including Intel's Classmate PC. The XO, well-known as the "\$100 laptop," was priced at \$188 by October 2007.

By Nick Bushak

The One Laptop Per Child foundation had a momentous year in 2007 as it prepared for beginning production of its long-awaited XO laptop in November. The nonprofit also faced new challenges from for-profit competition: OLPC formed an uneasy relationship with Intel, who announced a competing low-price laptop. In early January 2008, however, the relationship dissolved.

Faced with a lower-than-expected commitment rate from countries it had signed contracts with, One Laptop Per Child offered to sell consumers an XO laptop in exchange for a \$399 donation. Since \$399 is more than the cost of a laptop — originally billed as the "\$100 laptop," but priced at \$188 in October — the donation would also pay for an XO to be distributed to one of the nations designated a Least Developed Country by the United Nations.

OLPC and Intel: business relationship on the rocks

A strained relationship between Intel and OLPC characterized 2007. When he found that Intel was aggressively marketing their \$350 Classmate PC as an alternative to OLPC's XO in key developing countries, Nicholas Negroponete '66, founder and chairman of OLPC and co-founder of the MIT Media Lab, said on a May 20, 2007 "60 Minutes" feature that "Intel has hurt the [OLPC] mission enormously." Pressured by Negroponete's remarks, Intel joined the OLPC board on July 13, 2007. William A. Swope SM '76, general manager of Intel's Corporate Affairs Group and architect of the deal, said that "from any perspective, it would be impossible to ignore the timing" of the deal.

But the terms of the relationship were never completely clear. Intel continued to aggressively push the Classmate PC in the same countries eyed by OLPC. Swope told *The Tech* in Oc-

tober 2007 that Intel was preparing a proposal to put Intel chips in the next version of the OLPC's XO laptop, but that they had not lost their focus on the Classmate PC.

Walter R. Bender SM '80, president of OLPC Software and Content, said that Intel was "dragging their feet" on several different proposed collaborations. "They [Intel] don't tell me," said Bender. "Nothing new there."

Bender said that Intel and OLPC had entered into a "mutual nondisparagement agreement" with respect to their marketing of the Classmate PC and the XO.

Negroponete told *The Boston Globe* in early January 2008 that Intel had been "put on probation" for their continued attacks on the XO.

The situation came to a boil when, according to Negroponete's comments to the *Globe*, Intel's top executive in Peru tried to poach the Peru business from OLPC after OLPC had publicly finalized a deal. Negroponete claimed that Intel's executive contacted the Peruvian vice minister with the information that, since Intel was on the OLPC board, Intel had inside information that choosing the XO would lead to the program's failure. Negroponete also told *The Boston Globe* that Intel was using similar tactics in Mongolia.

Bender said that "since Intel contributed nothing to OLPC, the termination was not significant."

Give 1 Get 1 program solicits donations, sells laptops

Facing challenges in selling XO laptops to governments, OLPC capitalized on first-world consumers' interest in September 2007 by announcing a "Give 1 Get 1" program. The program accepted orders from Nov. 12, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2007.

Bender said that the program was a success; over 84,000 pairs of laptops were sold during the promotion. He said that many of the laptops donated are now being rolled out in Mongolia.

About one fourth of the donors had still not received their laptops as of Jan. 28, 2008, Bender said. Individual donors have complained on the OLPC wiki about errors in foundation's order system, ranging from inaccurately recorded shipping addresses to completely lost orders.

Bender said of these complaints that "the problem was more miscommunication than anything else." He said that OLPC failed to communicate to G1G1 customers that some XOs would be sent out in January 2008 because of production shortages. But he said that OLPC was working to remedy the problems, and that he hoped the rest of the laptops would be sent to donors in early February.

OLPC continues to expand sales

Bender said that OLPC has sold laptop solutions to the governments of Peru and Uruguay, and laptops from the Give 1 Get 1 program are being sent to Mongolia. He said that OLPC is preparing laptop solutions in Mexico, Haiti, and Afghanistan. "We sold a contract for more than we can [currently] produce," said Bender. About 250,000 laptops have been produced so far, and "we're scrambling to keep production up," said Bender.

2007 was also characterized by an increased commercialization of the low-cost laptop sector that OLPC created. Intel aggressively marketed the Classmate PC around the world. Mary Lou Jepsen, OLPC's founding chief technology officer, left the foundation on Dec. 31, 2007 to start Pixel Qi, a for-profit company aiming to commercialize some of her OLPC inventions, like the XO's innovative display.

Bender said that the commercialization of the technologies invented at OLPC is "completely orthogonal" to the goals of OLPC.

"OLPC is going to continue to do what we're doing, which is addressing the needs of an underserved population," Bender said.

cost \$300 during the spring 2007 term; a \$25 price hike for the fall was announced earlier in the year.

May 14: The MIT Corporation's Executive Committee has decided to divest from companies involved with the Sudanese government that violate MIT's investment principles and "whose actions or expressed attitudes are abhorrent to MIT," an MIT statement announces. By Sept. 21, 2007, the Institute will not have any investments in the top 20 companies deemed the highest offenders by the national Sudan Divestment Task Force, according to Secretary of the MIT Corporation Kirk D. Kolenbrander.

May 14: Randall Munroe, former NASA roboticist and creator of the xkcd Web comic, speaks to a packed 10-250. Hundreds of playpen balls fall from ceiling hatches during the lecture; the balls were labelled with a 32-digit HD-DVD processing key.

May 26: A body is found in the Mount Holyoke Range that is later identified as missing student Ryan M. Davis '10. Davis had been missing since March 31, and was last seen on the Mount Holyoke College campus.

June 1: Professor Frank L. Douglas resigns, saying the Institute breached an agreement to continue discussions with Professor James L. Sherley regarding his claims of racial discrimination in the tenure process.

June 1: MIT and Novartis sign the first contract of a 10-year corporate partnership, creating the Novartis-MIT Center for Continuous Manufacturing. Novartis will invest an anticipated \$65 million over the next 10 years in this partnership.

June 8: Former MIT President Charles M. Vest, president-elect of the National Academy of Engineering, speaks at the Institute's 141st Commencement. During the ceremony, the Class of 2007 presents MIT with the Senior Gift, a check for \$26,861 that will go toward a newly-established study abroad fund and other MIT groups and funds. The Class of 2007 achieved a record 52 percent participation rate.

June 9: A new LED lighting system for the Great Dome, funded by an alumni donation, debuts with a reception in Killian Court. The dome is now illuminated at night.

June 11: After a longer than expected renovation period, Subway opens in Lobdell food court on the second floor of the Student Center.

June 11: MIT announces that Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Steven R. Lerman '72 will be the new Dean for Graduate Students, effective July 1, replacing Isaac M. Colbert.

June 14: The RIAA files a copyright infringement lawsuit against eight defendants at MIT. The defendants named in the case were those who did not settle after receiving pre-litigation letters from the RIAA in May.

July 16: MIT releases a preliminary report detailing recommendations from the Race Initiative.

June 25: In response to a student-

The Institute in National, Local News

By Ryan Ko

When MIT made national and local headlines in 2007, it was largely because of one of many controversies, scandals, and bizarre incidents that may have put a dent in MIT's reputation. The year saw clashes with the administration and lawsuits, a professor on a hunger strike alleging racism had affected his tenure denial, an admissions dean resigning because she had lied on her resume many years ago, a sodium explosion in the Charles River with MIT widely considered the cause, a sophomore arrested for wearing a harmless LED device to Logan Airport, and a lawsuit filed against the Stata Center's architect.

Sodium burns boat workers

On Thursday, Sept. 6, five volunteers for the Charles River Cleanup Boat were injured by chemical and thermal burns caused by a piece of elemental sodium, which they placed in a bin of wet debris where it caught fire and exploded.

Local news source WBZ-TV news quickly pointed the finger at the annual East Campus sodium drop held during Residence Exploration, a full week before the incident. David Kaplar, managing editor of WBZ-TV news, said that the station linked the two events after WBZ-TV found out that sodium was responsible. "[We did a] Web search and put two-and-two together," Kaplar said to *The Tech* in September.

However, it quickly became doubtful that the East Campus drop was responsible, as no witnesses of the event reported any pieces of sodium skidding towards the Boston-side bank of the Charles River. It is unlikely that highly reactive sodium would last an entire week between the events, or that the metal could have made its way to the Boston shore from the middle of the Harvard Bridge, where the sodium was dropped this fall.

But other campus groups have also been known to drop sodium and potassium into the Charles River — in

particular, Tau Epsilon Phi likely held a sodium drop in the days before the explosion. Although the Massachusetts State Police investigation proved inconclusive and no disciplinary action was taken, MIT donated \$6,000 to the Charles River Cleanup Boat to cover the damages incurred. MIT also contributed to the fund that supports the cleanup boat in 2004 and 2006.

Sophomore arrested at Logan Airport

The sodium explosion incident had hardly cleared up when, a mere two weeks later on Sept. 21, Simpson was arrested at Logan International Airport by state troopers with MP5 machine guns and charged with possession of a hoax device.

Simpson, who was meeting her boyfriend arriving from California, was wearing a circuit board with LEDs arranged in the shape of a star. The circuit board unnerved an information desk worker, who called the police. The police noted that Simpson was found carrying five to six ounces of Play-Doh. Simpson's defense attorney said that the Play-Doh, in the shape of a rose, was a gift for her boyfriend.

Later that day, MIT released a press release which controversially called Simpson's actions "reckless." Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 said the Institute had not talked to Simpson before releasing the statement. The statement was protested a week later by a group of students in front of Walker Memorial.

The discussion at the protest was focused on Simpson's arrest, but protestors also talked about the actions taken by the administration in response to the sodium fire and the felony charges filed against hackers who had been caught exploring in the Faculty Club.

At the student protest, Biyeun M. Bucyk '10 said that MIT was "bending over to media" and "issued a comment that was taken as criticism when [Simpson] really didn't do anything wrong." Clay told *The Tech* that he thought "reckless" was the right

word based on what the administration knew at the time. But Clay also said that the media's portrayal of Simpson as a hoax bomber was "unfair and unfortunate," as Simpson "is not a malicious person."

The faculty also expressed concern about MIT's remarks. At the Dec. 19 faculty meeting, attended by over 200, a motion asked MIT to limit its public statements about community members facing criminal investigations. The motion was defeated, though Professor Patrick H. Winston, a co-sponsor of the motion, said later that he felt he had made his point and that, in a way, "the statement was heard."

MIT's interpretation of privacy act comes under fire

Susan L. Kayton '50 faced a sobering reason to struggle against the MIT administration: the death of her son Daniel J. Barclay '07, who was declared a missing person on April 13 and was found dead on a beach in Cape Cod Bay on April 19.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, despite Barclay having first been reported as missing by his friends on April 8, MIT denied Kayton access to Barclay's dormitory room and his Athena files, citing the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Undeterred by the administration, Kayton took a red-eye flight to MIT, and broke into her son's room with the help of some of Barclay's friends.

"Because of all these privacy laws ... we have to get court orders," Kayton said to *The Tech* in April. "The law has gone too far" in regards to missing persons cases.

Kayton alleges that Barclay's death could have been avoided had MIT allowed her access to Barclay's room and property. Barclay's death was ruled a suicide, but Kayton and her husband are working to appeal the ruling, the *WSJ* reports.

Stabbing hits Next House residents close to home

The community received another

shocking piece of news on Oct. 23, when then-Wellesley College junior Anna L. Tang allegedly stabbed her ex-boyfriend Wolfe B. Styke '10 seven times in his room at Next House.

The event prompted a campus-wide examination of current dormitory security policies because Tang had obtained a key to Stykes' room through a night watchman on duty at Next House. According to the Cambridge Police report, the night watchman said he had given Tang a key because he didn't know the two were no longer romantically involved.

After these facts came to light, President Susan Hockfield charged Chancellor Phillip Clay with creating a task force to look at dorm security. Although that task force has been created, the only visible result so far is that desk workers (and, in Bexley Hall, graduate resident tutors) will no longer let dormitory residents into their rooms — students who are locked out should now call x3-1500 instead.

Tang, arrested at the crime scene, was detained until Nov. 7 and was held without bail until Jan. 9. She was released on \$10,000 bail and ordered to be kept under house arrest. She is no longer a Wellesley student.

MIT falls to 7th in U.S. News rankings

MIT's fall from fourth to seventh place in the *U.S. News and World Report* college ranking was driven in part by changes in how MIT defines and computes class sizes and by corrections in how MIT reports its entering class's SAT scores. *The Wall Street Journal* picked up the story.

Previously, MIT did not report certain standardized-test scores from some students, such as the SAT verbal score for international admits who also took the Test of English as a Foreign Language or the less favorable scores of students who took both the SAT and ACT. "If we didn't use

see *Headlines* on page 13 ▶▶



Michael McGraw-Herdeg—The Tech

Local media representatives barrage Star A. Simpson '10 with questions after she was arraigned on charges of disorderly conduct and possession of a hoax device for wearing an innocuous LED device to Logan Airport on Sept. 21, 2007.

Tuition Rises Even as Endowment, Donations Balloon

By Nick Semenkovich

Tuition rose by 4.1 percent last year, even as donations and the endowment increased to record numbers.

In March 2007, MIT announced that tuition would increase by 4.1 percent to \$34,986. MIT's financial aid offerings increased by 11.4 percent to \$68 million. In contrast, Harvard University raised their tuition by 3.9 percent to \$31,456, but revamped their entire financial aid system. Harvard is now free to families making less than \$60,000 per year, and financial aid is offered to families with income up to \$180,000.

MIT's endowment had a return rate of 19.3 percent this year, boosted by investment returns of 22.1 percent. The endowment now stands at \$9.98 billion, placing MIT sixth among all college endowments.

Other universities saw comparable increases in their endowments, such as Harvard (19.8 percent), Princeton University (21.0 percent), and Stanford University (21.9 percent). The highest return was at Yale University, with a whopping 28.0 percent, putting their endowment at \$22.5 billion.

These enormous endowment returns combined with tuition increases prompted concerns by the Senate Finance Committee. In January 2008, the committee asked the wealthiest 136 universities for information on endowment use, tuition increases, and executive compensation.



Diana Ye—The Tech

MIT raised \$160 million by October for the Campaign for Students.

Alongside MIT's tuition and endowment increases, the Institute started a new donation program called the Campaign for Students. According to Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, the program is aimed at raising \$500 million over the next five years, of which \$200 million will support undergraduate financial aid programs and scholarships, and the remaining \$300 million will be evenly divided between graduate student fellowships, student life, and student learning.

The Campaign for Students had raised \$160 million by October 2007, which Clay said puts the program "ahead of schedule."

A Protracted Divestment from Sudan

By Nick Semenkovich

After many student protests, MIT finally announced its intention to divest from Sudan in May 2007. The decision came from the MIT Corporation's Executive Committee, which heard recommendations from an advisory committee in April.

Kirk D. Kolenbrander, secretary of the Corporation, issued a statement saying that MIT would be "reviewing the securities portfolios over which it may exercise direct investment discretion and will divest as appropriate," and characterized the acts in Sudan as "genocide."

Despite those strong words, it has been difficult to see further progress in divestment. Kolenbrander, citing institutional policy, has declined to provide any information as to how much money was invested in Sudan and in what companies. Kolenbrander also declined to speculate on how long divestment could take.

It's also unclear if the divestment principles the MIT Corporation's Executive Committee chose align with those recommended by the ACSR.

Kayvan Zainabadi G, who was an active leader in the divestment campaign, characterized MIT's decision to divest as encouraging. He said he was "cautiously optimistic" and wanted to see how the divestment was implemented.

In September, Kolenbrander announced that MIT was not invested in the 20 "highest offenders" as determined by the national Sudan Divestment Task Force. Kolenbrander would not say whether MIT was ever invested in any of the offending companies but did say that "whatever changes were necessary ... our investment managers moved promptly to make that happen ... there's no further work to be done there, as I understand it."

Ranks, Stata Bring MIT Into National Headlines

► from *Headlines* on page 12

a student's score ... we didn't report it," Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 said in September. "This year we did."

Additionally, class size reports vary from year to year as multiple sections of the same class can be interpreted to mean either distinct classrooms or a single class. "The language is muddy," Director of Institutional Research Lydia S. Snover said in September. "We've been having these debates on and off over what is a class."

For other *U.S. News* rankings, MIT remained at the top of undergraduate engineering schools, where it has been for the past six years. The departments of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mechanical Engineering were ranked first as well.

Institute sues Stata architect

On Oct. 31, MIT filed a lawsuit against Frank O. Gehry, the Stata Center's architect, and Skanska USA Building Inc., the construction company that built the \$300 million building. The suit alleged that neg-

ligent design and construction had caused architectural problems like poor draining, mold growth, leaks, and ice sliding from the roof. It said that the outdoor amphitheater needed \$1.5 million in repairs.

Although the contractual issues were largely ones of minor negligence and liability, the news also relit a public debate over whether Gehry's twisted metal-and-glass design for the Stata Center reflects inspired brilliance or an expensive embarrassment.

Former Boston University President John Silber, an outspoken critic of the Stata Center, said to the *Boston Globe* that Gehry "thinks of himself as an artist, as a sculptor. But the trouble is you don't live in a sculpture and users have to live in this building."

But MIT Robotics Professor Rodney Brooks disagreed. He said in an e-mail to *The Tech* that he and other MIT faculty had worked closely with Gehry during the design and construction of the Stata Center, and that he was happy working in the building.

The suit continues in the Suffolk County Superior Court.



Ricardo Ramirez—The Tech

MIT filed a lawsuit against Frank O. Gehry, the Stata Center's architect.

led plan for improvement of east campus dining options, Campus Dining announces that Pritchett Dining will not reopen in the fall and that the semester fee for Preferred Dining would be rolled back to \$300 for the fall.

June 30: James L. Sherley meets the end of his appointment. Sherley faced locked doors when he attempted to work in his lab after the June 30 deadline.

July 2: Bernard Loyd '83, an African American alumnus and former MIT Corporation trustee, withdraws from activities supporting MIT in protest of the Institute's handling of Sherley's tenure case.

July 6: Construction has begun on 303 Third Street near Kendall Square, the site that will house MIT's University Residential Community, the result of over four years of planning by members of the MIT community to provide affordable housing close to campus to those affiliated with MIT, *The Tech* reports. Prices for housing units range from \$478,000 for a one bedroom apartment to \$1.5 million for a three bedroom apartment.

July 6: MIT has formed a new Security & Emergency Management Office, *The Tech* reports. With a staff of three — David M. Barber, Thomas W. Komola, and Daniel L. Michaud — the office will coordinate campus security policies as well as provide assistance with security questions and advice on installing security systems.

July 21: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the seventh and final book in the children's book series by J.K. Rowling, is released in bookstores at midnight.

July 22: James T. Albrecht '08 passes away after falling from the roof of a New York City apartment building.

July 23: Professor of Mechanical Engineering Subra Suresh becomes the new dean of engineering.

July 29: The body of Cambridge resident Edgar R. Gonzalez '04 is found in Grout Pond in Stratton, Vt. Gonzalez had been missing since July 7 when he became separated from his group while hiking during a camping trip.

Aug. 6: An MIT Federal Credit Union branch opens on the first floor of the Student Center.

Aug. 17: Kirk D. Kolenbrander announces a test of a new campus-wide emergency communications system that will occur in the next week. The test was considered a success with 26,000 e-mail messages sent in under five minutes, *The Tech* later reports.

Aug. 28: A bomb threat is sent to MIT via an anonymous e-mail, though the MIT Police do not find any evidence to substantiate the threat. MIT was one of many schools to receive the e-mail threat, including Princeton University, The University of New Hampshire, The University of Iowa, and Carnegie-Mellon University. The e-mails also prompted small evacuations at Clemson University and Cornell University.

continued on page 17 ►►

In Memoriam

Walter Alan Backofen

Walter Alan Backofen '46, retired professor of metallurgy and materials science, died at his Marblehead, Mass. home on Dec. 2, 2006. He was 80.

Backofen taught at MIT for 25 years, retiring in 1975. He designed new courses and a new laboratory and became recognized for bridging theory and practice over a wide range of real-life problems — from automotive stampings to orthopedic implants and the Star Wars defense shield.

Douglas Ross

Douglas Ross SM '54 passed away on Jan. 31, 2007 after a fall at his home in the Brookhaven at Lexington care community. He was 77.

A lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Ross was well-known for having invented the Automatically Programmed Tool computer language while simultaneously learning and teaching at MIT, according to the *Boston Globe*. He was also the founder of software engineering company SofT-ech and coined the term "computer-aided design."

Frances E. Low

Francis E. Low, a retired MIT physicist and provost who worked on the Manhattan Project, died of heart failure on Feb. 16, 2007 at a retirement home in Haverford, Pa. He was 85.

"Francis was a hero of the physics department," said Professor Marc A. Kastner. "His theoretical ideas shaped much of modern particle physics as well as condensed matter physics, and he was a wise, generous colleague who helped many of us when we were starting our careers at MIT."

Ronald H. Stowell

Ronald H. Stowell, a postdoctoral research associate in the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center, passed away on March 4, 2007. His death was ruled a suicide by hanging. He was 36.

Stowell, who came to MIT with a PhD in 2005 from Princeton University's Program in Plasma Physics, also served as a teaching assistant for the undergraduate math course Differential Equations (18.03) in Spring 2007. He taught three sections, close to one-tenth of the 18.03 students, according to course instructor Professor Arthur P. Mattuck. In an e-mail to 18.03 students, Mattuck described Stowell as "highly knowledgeable about the subject and deeply concerned with how best to teach it."

Daniel J. Barclay

Daniel J. Barclay '07 was found dead on April 20, 2007 on Scussett Beach in Cape Cod. His death was later ruled



a suicide, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. He was 22.

Barclay was strongly involved with MIT's Debate Team, spending his weekends debating at colleges through the nation. "He was a very good debater," said Adam J. Goldstein '09, president of the debate team, to the *Cape Cod Times*. "He had a good sense of humor. He was always joking around."

At MIT, Barclay received a bachelor's degree in economics and was finishing his master's thesis in political science.

Richard J. Samuels, Barclay's freshman advisor, said that he was "extremely fond" of Barclay and that he was "a pleasure to know, and a pleasure to work with."

Ivan D. Dimitrov

Ivan D. Dimitrov '10, a passionate, goal-oriented international student from Sofia, Bulgaria, died on April 21,



2007 due to fatal injuries from a motorcycle accident. He was 20.

Iliya T. Tsekov '08, one of Dimitrov's Senior House suite mates, described his friend as "cheerful and happy," always joking around and in high spirits. According to Ivan Z. Dimitrov '09 (no relation to the decedent), a Bulgarian suite mate and high school friend, Dimitrov was very proud of his Bulgarian nationality.

The two long-time friends both avidly followed Bulgaria's professional soccer team CSKA Sofia as members of the CSKA fan club. Tsekov said that it was Dimitrov's idea to cover their suite with all sorts of Bulgarian-related decorations, such as flags, barricades, and plastic swords.

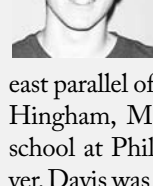
Charles D. Paton

Charles D. Paton, retired director of the Electrical Engineering Laboratories, died April 29, 2007. He was 78.

Paton arrived at MIT in 1968 and taught graduate and undergraduate classes until his retirement in 1993. He also founded Paton Engineering Research, where he conducted innovative research that advanced battery technology.

Ryan M. Davis

Ryan M. Davis '10, an energetic and vibrant student with a passion for chemistry, died on May 26, 2007 in the Mount Holyoke Range after being missing for nearly two months. He was 20.



Davis, a third-floor resident of the east parallel of East Campus, was from Hingham, Mass., and attended high school at Phillips Academy in Andover. Davis was an athlete with a love for the outdoors. He was a member of two swim teams and played soccer in local leagues. Davis was also a skilled sailor and served as a sailing instructor.

E. Cary Brown

E. Cary Brown, a leading expert on fiscal policy and the economics of taxation and a member of the MIT economics faculty for more than 60 years, passed away on June 8, 2007. He was 91.

As a professor of economics at MIT, Brown taught a wide range of graduate and undergraduate courses on tax policy design, statistical methods for economics, and the economics of fiscal policy.

Joseph F. O'Connor

Joseph F. O'Connor, Draper Laboratory's retired vice president of hu-

man resources and administration (1981–1994) and secretary of the MIT Corporation (1994–2005), died June 11, 2007 of cancer at the age of 77.

For more than a dozen years, O'Connor was the face of Draper Laboratory in the Cambridge community. O'Connor presented Draper's viewpoint on topics of public interest, such as the Nuclear-free Cambridge Referendum of 1983, and he provided leadership for many civic organizations.

Eugene Bell

Eugene Bell, a former MIT biology professor renowned for his pioneering work in the field of regenerative medicine, passed away on June 22, 2007. He was 88.

Bell recently donated more than \$1 million to MIT to establish the Eugene Bell Career Development Professorship of Tissue Engineering. Darrell J. Irvine, the inaugural holder of the professorship, said Bell came to be known as the "father of tissue engineering" as a result of a seminal study he published in the journal *Science* in 1981.

Edgar R. Gonzalez

Edgar R. Gonzalez '04 was found in Grout Pond in Stratton, Vt. on July 29, 2007. Gonzalez had been missing since July 7 when he became separated from his group while hiking during a camping trip. He was 29.

Gonzalez worked as an assistant tennis coach in MIT's Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation.

James T. Albrecht

James T. Albrecht '08, a Baker House resident known for his contributions to academic and student life and MIT, died on July 22, 2007 from injuries sustained in a fall. Albrecht, 21, appears to have fallen from the roof of a New York City five-story apartment building and landed on a second-story ledge of an adjacent building, according to the New York Police Department.

"James Albrecht's most charming and memorable quality was his overwhelming generosity," said Sarah C. Proehl '09. "Even if it was 2 a.m., and he had myriad problem sets to do, he would gladly put down his work to help any student knocking on his door."

Albert R. Ni '09 described Albrecht as "a laid-back, easy going guy, always funny and enjoyable to be around."

"He was someone who derived a lot of pleasure through helping others, something that I think speaks more truly to his character than any of his other virtues," Ni said in an e-mail to Baker House. "There is no question that the time I shared with him as a roommate and a friend was enjoyable and invaluable. He was the first person to make me feel welcome at MIT."

At MIT, Albrecht was the president of Baker House and was elected as vice president of the Dormitory Council in May 2007.

Hollis M. Lilly

Hollis M. Lilly, staff associate in the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, died on July 28, 2007 due to complications from

surgery. He was 36.

Lilly came to MIT in October 2003. In his capacity as staff to the faculty Committee on Academic Performance and as the coordinator of Advanced Placement transfer credit and UAAP sponsored study sessions, he worked with both faculty and students.

A resident of Somerville who grew up in Lowell, Lilly previously worked at Harvard University.

Hayward R. Alker

Hayward R. Alker '59, an MIT alumnus and political scientist specializing in international relations, died Aug. 24, 2007 at his home in Block Island, R.I., following a cerebral hemorrhage. He was 69.

A New York City native, Alker was a leading scholar on international conflict resolution, widely respected for his integration of mathematical and humanistic research methods.

Walter S. Owen

Walter S. Owen, professor emeritus of physical metallurgy at MIT, died Oct. 10, 2007 at Massachusetts General Hospital. He was 87.

Owen joined MIT as head of what was to become the Department of Materials Science and Engineering; during his tenure as department head from 1973 to 1982, the department broadened its academic and research focus from metallurgy to include ceramics, polymers, and semiconductors. Controversial at the time, this change created a department that today produces groundbreaking work.

John Jackson

John Jackson, a father figure to generations of young men in MIT's Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity house, died of cancer on Oct. 19, 2007 at Sherrill House in Jamaica Plain. He was 92.

Jackson, who was a cook for DKE for half a century, nourished bodies and enriched souls and minds, members of the MIT fraternity said to the *Boston Globe*. "Although Jack started as a cook, his role became much more rich and important as social barriers dropped over the years," Ted Devlin '87 of Somerville, who lived at the Memorial Drive house from 1983–1987, told the *Globe*.

Kenneth A. Wright

Kenneth A. Wright '47, a physicist who spent more than 60 years at MIT researching the effects of radiation, died Jan. 7, 2008. He was 88.

Wright's area of expertise was in determining the radiation doses required to sterilize, pasteurize, and modify materials, and in verifying the effects of these doses on irradiated materials.

Wright came to MIT from the U.S. Army, where he worked on radar during World War II. Between 1947 and 1985, he worked as a physicist staff member of the High Voltage Research Laboratory in the Department of Electrical Engineering. In 1985, he became a half-time staffer in HVRL and in 1995 moved to part-time. During his career, he authored or co-authored more than 70 research papers.

The MIT News Office contributed many of these obituaries.

The Year in *Tech* Editorials

By The Tech's Editorial Board

Incorporating perspectives built upon institutional memory and the paper's untouched archives, *The Tech's* editorial board weighed in on several matters of importance to the MIT community this past year. Below find editorials on what we consider to be some of the year's most important topics.

Sherley's Racism Claims Lack Evidence — Feb. 16, 2007

James L. Sherley wants us to believe that MIT is racist, and that it is because of this institutional racism that he was denied tenure. Unfortunately, his numerous lengthy public statements have supplied no evidence to support his claims. ...

Sherley's numerous public statements have provided detailed descriptions of improprieties in others' conduct towards him and his tenure review

— from the Institute, the Biological Engineering department, and particular members of the faculty and administration.

If his allegations of conflicts of interest, personal vendettas, and misleading public statements are indeed true, they would certainly constitute a breakdown in the tenure process, and would warrant some form of action to safeguard against future problems.

However, even if one were to accept every single one of Sherley's allegations at face value, there would still be no evidence of racism. ...

MIT is, at its heart, a school built on the principles of science and engineering. We search for evidence, use the tools of logic, and are not in the habit of accepting rumors and allegations as truth. ...

For its part, MIT owes Sherley a true and open response to all of his allegations, and must actively engage the

faculty as a whole with regards to how to correct those broken components of its tenure process.

Equally important, if Sherley or his supporters fail to provide any con-

crete evidence of racism, the Institute owes it to our entire community not to follow the path of appeasement.

MIT must actively engage the faculty as a whole with regards to how to correct those broken components of its tenure process.

Quiet Victories for Student Initiatives

By Ali S. Wyne

2007 represented a year of quiet victories for student-led initiatives. Two examples merit particular attention — the first for confirming that partnership between students and administrators is possible, the second for demonstrating that sustained student pressure can change even the most entrenched of Institute policies.

Ongoing discussions between Next House's student government, the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, and the Office of Housing reached fruition in December 2007 when it was announced that freshmen placed in that dormitory would be able to participate in Residence Exploration and enter the Housing Readjustment Lottery (*The Tech*, Dec. 4, 2007). This policy change could not have come sooner: 49 percent of the '09s who were placed there ranked it as their first choice in the summer lottery. That figure decreased to 36 percent for the Class of 2010, and plummeted to 18 percent for the Class of 2011. This drop becomes even more pronounced when one examines the three-year trends for other dorms (*The Tech*, Aug. 27, 2007). Franklyn F. Lau '08 deserves much of the credit for giving future Next House freshmen

more choice.

MIT's decision to divest selectively from companies that are operating in Sudan was another critical victory, especially considering its past record (*The Tech*, May 15, 2007). After all, it was one of the few institutions that did not divest from companies that were investing in apartheid South Africa during the 1980s. Harvard, Yale,

and Stanford all established standing advisory committees on shareholder responsibility in the 1970s; the Advisory Committee on Share-

holder Responsibility that MIT established in 1971 was only ad hoc. For the past three decades, Harvard, Yale, and Stanford have led academia in responding to grave human rights crises; MIT's ASCR did not even convene between 1999 and 2006. Although the Institute should have rendered a judgment on Sudan far earlier than it did (it announced its decision well after most schools had opted to divest), it deserves praise for responding at all. It was MIT Amnesty International's tireless campaign that compelled MIT to reconsider its posture.

There were, of course, important setbacks. Notable among them was the announcement that W1 would

see *Wyne* on page 20 ►►

Going Too Far — Feb. 23, 2007

For the MIT police to charge three MIT students who were found exploring after hours indicates a fundamental misunderstanding of their mission: to provide a police presence that is suitable for our community. ...

If convicted, the students facing charges would potentially suffer a lifetime of closed doors, social stigmas, job refusals, and even the loss of voting rights in some states.

The MIT administration claims to value our hacking culture — celebrations of past hacks are proudly displayed within our halls, along our lobbies, and in our museum. Campus tour guides are directed to highlight past hacks, and new hacks are routinely featured on the MIT homepage. Given all of this, how can the administration possibly justify letting the MIT police ruin three students' lives for doing exactly what it usually glorifies? ...

The Tech calls upon the MIT Police and the administration to quickly take all steps necessary for charges to be dropped against the three students. *The Tech* also calls on the administration to publicly reaffirm its commitment to

deal with such situations through internal reviews, and to use community service as the standard for punishment. Finally, the administration must work with students to review and clarify the role of our campus police.

Jones' Resignation Right For MIT — May 4, 2007

MIT made the right decision in asking Marilee Jones to resign. If our hiring process is not reliable, how can we defend our integrity in other areas, like research? ... All of MIT

should be held to the same standard for honesty in order to maintain credibility.

Although Jones' effectiveness in running the Admissions Office illustrates that the degrees in question were not necessary for even her high-level position of dean, it does not mean that such qualifications are not important during hiring. ... It may be unreasonable to expect the Institute to thoroughly check the background of all new employees at all levels. But it is the Institute's responsibility to find

see *Editorials* on page 21 ►►

If our hiring process is not reliable, how can we defend our integrity in other areas, like research?

Retaining MIT's Uniqueness

By Steven R. Lerman

MIT competes intensively with the other top tier universities for the best and the brightest students, particularly in science and engineering. As in the past, this ever-increasing competition will always require us to adapt and change over time.

One of our challenges in competing with our peer universities is deciding what elements of the unique MIT culture should be preserved, and what should be changed. We have a culture and history that makes an MIT education distinctive. We need to discover what changes we should make while still preserving those attributes that make MIT truly exceptional.

As both an alumnus and a long time faculty member, I have my own list of core attributes worthy of preservation. I thought I'd use this space in *The Tech* to share these entirely personal views.

First, we must continue being a specialized university centered in science and technology. This means a commitment to a rigorous core curriculum and major programs that require a deep understanding of a discipline. My intent is not to exclude other areas of excellence outside science and technology; we must also sustain a

diversity of intellectual disciplines so that our students have the opportunity to become well-rounded and well-informed. However, we must continue to pick and choose those other areas carefully so that we don't try to be everything to everybody.

We need to preserve the true spirit embodied in "Mens et Manus." This means a sustained commitment to doing things of practical value to society, not just observing and analyzing. This will require continuing our historical engagement with industry and government in translating new knowledge into useful products and services that meet human needs. MIT should never be solely a bystander, just doing research solely for its own sake.

We also need to retain a culture which supports the view that integrity, well-reasoned ideas, and verifiable evidence are what matter in determining scientific truth, rather than ideology, intellectual fashion, simplistic beliefs, or the unsupported assertions of people of great stature.

We must expand our efforts to be as inclusive as possible in all aspects of our work. Intellectual excellence can come from anywhere, and we must be a place where the best minds come to-

see *Lerman* on page 22 ►►

We need to discover what changes we should make while still preserving that which makes MIT exceptional.

New Admins Can't Take Nerd Culture for Granted

By Ruth Miller

I've often referred to MIT as a "nerd reservation," or a place for the world's extremely bizarre people to live and work together by their own system of rules and social norms. This beautiful society they created — one based on respect for logic and invention — is not coincidentally a mine of greatness. While churning out Nobel Laureates and top ranks, MIT garnered the reputation of being fun for those that appreciate spelunking, Smoots, and steer.

But we can't take it all for granted. When asked to name the biggest problem facing MIT in 2007, my immediate thought was "threat to cul-

ture." For now, parental complaints, various lawsuits, and the attention that disproportionately plagues high profile institutions have had only the occasional impact on student life (though infamous examples include freshmen in dormitories, dining dollars, the flag policy, a sensitivity to mental health considered unusual in other environments, and a general policy of forking over students when confronted by the media).

MIT has been fortunate to have administrators and governing "powers

that be" that are aware of the fragility of their intellectually fertile and legally complicated charge. But understanding a complex social organism such as MIT is difficult to accomplish through any means other than first-hand experience. Continuing administrative turnover and the seemingly high influx of people previously unexposed to MIT's culture does not infuse the Institute with a feeling of continuity.

In my tenure as Undergraduate Association vice president, I was for-

fortunate to have the willing ear of many members of MIT's administration. These individuals share a deep desire to help students, and they draw upon their collective experience at a variety of institutions. But the line between "draw upon" and "inflict" is a fine one and many people lack an understanding of the unique demographic they're attempting to serve. Trying to explain the necessity of residential exploration to an administrator who didn't experience such a thing in his own undergraduate career defines frustrating. Freshmen at other schools live together in randomly assigned freshman housing and learn to make the best of

see *Miller* on page 22 ►►

MIT Students Go Global

By Sally Susnowitz

The constant barrage of news about climate change, energy shortages, environmental degradation, disease, and war demonstrates the challenges and dangers of an increasingly interconnected world. However, in the face of these grim realities and predictions, it is reassuring to witness the real-world, international successes of MIT students. By working with communities around the world, MIT students create positive outcomes that have transformative effects. The more MIT students participate in international public service, the better chance we have of creating a world where interconnection is an asset and headlines can be positive.

Consider just a few of the outcomes of MIT students' international public service work. First, the students gain substantial educational benefits from their public service experiences abroad. Given that MIT students often become powerful professionals, these lessons are themselves important opportunities for positive change in the world. The experiential education they gain through public service helps them learn about issues, about complexity, about problem-solving, about how to apply and fully understand their academic subjects. They learn about the cultural, geographic, political, social, economic, and technical influences that shape communities and countries. They also gain important personal insights about their own assumptions, capabilities, and strengths.

By tackling the problems of human need collaboratively with local people, MIT students also develop community capacity. When MIT students work with teachers and community leaders to establish a computer center in India or to develop a hands-on science curriculum in Tanzania, they continue to empower people long after they return

home from their travels over the Independent Activities Period or the summer. Over time, the effects of MIT students' international public service work can expand. For example, one IDEAS Competition winning project has already enabled 25,000 people in Nepal to drink cleaner water, and as communities share the technologies, those numbers will rise.

Last year, MIT began an initiative to expand experiential education and

international opportunities. Institute committees were formed to assess current offerings and develop appropriate guidelines for growth. The

"Global MIT" Web site was launched, followed by a "Go Global" subsidiary site for students. iHouse opened, thanks to the collective efforts of students, faculty, and administrators, all eager to see this new living-learning community empower students to become successful leaders in a global context.

We hope that this Institute emphasis on international experience will continue — and that it will enable the MIT Public Service Center to expand international public service opportunities through the IDEAS Competition, Public Service Fellowships and grants, and service learning classes like D-Lab. Through these support systems, MIT students are already working on innovative ways to regenerate coral reefs, to curb the spread of tuberculosis and malaria, to irrigate arid regions, and to enable access to communication technology to spur education and economic development. But in a world where a billion people lack clean drinking water, where smoke from indoor cooking kills thousands of children each year, and where poverty, persecution, and illiteracy are a fact of life for millions, MIT students have much more work to do.

Sally Susnowitz is the director of the MIT Public Service Center. By

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Sally Susnowitz is the director of the MIT Public Service Center. By

Not Just Another Ivy League

By Sarah C. Hopp

MIT is going through an identity crisis. Administrators frequently use Ivy League universities as a yardstick by which MIT's student life is evaluated. MIT fundamentally differs from these other elite institutions in our dominance of science and engineering as well as our values of self-determination and independence in student life.

The tides at MIT are turning. MIT administrators are more out of touch on numerous student life issues. Although student input is sometimes sought, it often comes too late in the decision-making process to have a significant impact, or is disregarded outright.

Ashdown has recently exemplified this decline in student-administrator interactions. Over a year ago, graduate students were completely in the dark about their future home in NW35. Building designs stifled organic community growth and included no input from future residents. Improvements

were made only after significant negative press. Only months later, undergraduates ended up in a similar situation regarding future undergraduate dormitory W1; the original building planning committees, which had student members, were abandoned by administrators after only a handful of meetings, without producing any firm recommendations.

Finally, at the end of last semester, a sweeping plan for Ashdown was revealed. Included in this plan was a full dining hall, much to the chagrin, but not surprise, of the original student committee members. These students had been told in one of their few committee meetings months prior that the decision had already been made and that it was completely non-negotiable. Committee members had numerous concerns about the feasibility of the proposed dining hall and its effect on organic community in W1, but

see *Hopp* on page 20 ►►

The Great Copyright Crackdown

By Jeffrey I. Schiller

2007 has been the year of the great copyright crackdown. While copyright has been part of the law for hundreds of years, protecting intellectual property so that those who create it are justly compensated is now even more important in an information economy, even as the prevalence of digital media makes it easier to violate copyright laws.

Copyright is not an intuitive concept. I believe that humans are not naturally wired to understand intellectual property — after all, our ancestors made their living by hunting mammoths with sticks. So if someone asks you to photocopy a book, you don't say no because you viscerally understand copyright. The real reason you don't copy a book is because it's a hassle and it would just be

cheaper and easier for the other person to purchase his own copy.

However digital media is trivial to copy, so the hassle factor is removed. Moreover, the legal options for things like getting music are clunky, inefficient, and often offer suboptimal functionality. In contrast, many "pirate" distribution methods are just plain more convenient than official distribution channels. It is as if you were forced by law to go to a dealer and buy a crappy old rusty car, where just down the street there's a lot of unguarded shiny new Mercedes with the doors unlocked and the key in the ignition. If you took one of those, it would be stealing ... but only one in every thousand people get caught. It's a huge

see *Schiller* on page 21 ►►

MIT's Missile Defense Cover-Up

By Theodore A. Postol

Over the past seven years, the MIT Corporation has been actively concealing evidence of scientific fraud at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, relating to the effectiveness of a national missile defense system. During that time, the U.S. has mis-spent nearly \$70 billion of national treasure on a flawed system, and MIT's name has been used to lull the nation's decision makers into believing that the defense might work. My aim in writing this article is to provide the MIT community with facts so powerful that anyone who reads them will understand that the actions of the MIT Corporation in this case have ignored the nation's best interests.

The outrage is twofold. First, that fraud and misconduct happened on such an expensive and consequential project — and second, that MIT's administration covered it up. Between 2001 and 2008 the MIT Corporation impeded a federally mandated investigation by falsely claiming that information was classified when it was not. The administration also repeatedly told the faculty and the MIT community about barriers to an investigation that did not exist.

Documents obtained this past year through the Freedom of Information Act, including reports from MIT's internal investigation [3], the Department of Defense's "independent" investigation [4], the initial POET study from Lincoln Laboratory itself [2], and communications between MIT's administration and Congress [5], provide detailed insights into how the MIT Corporation concealed information from the Congress that indicated possible scientific fraud at Lincoln Laboratory.

Among the findings:

1. The POET report was "silent on the issue of calibration and functional status of the eye or sensors [on the missile] ... in contrast, the GAO report raises serious issues about the functionality of the sensor."

MIT Lincoln Laboratory and managers misrepresented a critical proof-of-concept missile defense experiment, the IFT-1A, as a success to federal agents and to the Senate Armed Services Committee when the experiment had in fact failed. The "silence" of the MIT POET report about the "calibration and functional status of the eye" refers to the fact that Lincoln Laboratory did not report that the sensor in the "successful" experiment had failed to take any usable scientific data.

The MIT inquiry found that the claims made about the success of the IFT-1A could not possibly be true as the sensor provided no data that could be used to reach the asserted conclusions.

2. The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.

3. The POET report claimed to have identified a mock warhead by

analyzing certain characteristics of the signals from the warhead and surrounding decoys. The MIT report four years later found that "independent analysis by Professor Postol suggests ... [this could] ... not be the case." Without going into the technical details, this observation by the MIT inquiry report also indicates false reporting of experimental and analytic results.

Lincoln Laboratory managers, in addition to staff, were substantially involved in the production of the original POET study's "independent" investigation, which had been commissioned by the Missile Defense Agency in response to a DCIS [Defense Criminal

Between 2001 and 2008 the MIT Corporation impeded a federally mandated investigation by falsely claiming that information was classified when it was not.

Investigative Office] request. Their involvement in the study unambiguously meets the definition of scientific fraud and misconduct (see definition below [1]). The involvement of these managers also suggests that they may have knowingly misled federal agents who were investigating possible fraud in the missile defense program.

Where the POET study had concluded that "overall, the [Baseline Algorithms] are well designed and work properly with only some refinements or redesign required to increase the robustness of the overall discrimination function." (page 28), the DoD report counters that this "overly generous" conclusion would have been disproved had Lincoln Laboratory made its own analysis of the test data rather than accepting the contractors' information. Yet DoD investigators astonishingly argued that because the study was "not a scientific journal article, and ... was meant only for about ten people, that the sensor problems were known to those involved..." (page 8).

Meanwhile, MIT's central administration played its own part in the cover-up. In March 2004, Senator Carl Levin, now Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, asked for a copy of the MIT internal report which contained findings clearly indicating evidence of scientific fraud at Lincoln. Levin also asked why the federally mandated follow-on investigation, required by the then unreleased findings of the inquiry, had not yet started after nearly two years.

MIT's then-President Charles M. Vest responded by letter saying that MIT could not start the mandated investigation because of barriers created by the Missile Defense Agency's classification of the MIT internal inquiry. He told Levin that the inquiry could not be released to him because it contained substantial amounts of "highly sensitive classified informa-

tion." Although Vest made some vague statements about the inquiry's findings, he did not tell Levin that the findings were unclassified, nor did he tell Levin that the findings included evidence of likely scientific fraud at Lincoln Laboratory. Vest concluded by saying that "MIT has not ... been able to devise a process that would permit a meaningful determination of the issues and at the same time be acceptable to the sponsor [Missile Defense Agency] of the research." Thus MIT forfeited its responsibilities for an independent investigation.

A renewed interest in the Congress on this matter will inevitably lead to new insights about how and why the MIT Corporation chose to work against the nation's interest on behalf of the Missile Defense Agency, a major "sponsor" of research at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. A recent University of Massachusetts study ranks the MIT Corporation as the fourth largest defense contractor in Massachusetts with a budget of \$600+ million. MIT Lincoln Laboratory's budget is \$600+ million.

In the next year, I expect we will learn many additional details about the MIT Corporation's role in this matter. Now that unclassified accounts are finally publicly available, the issues they raise can finally be reviewed and discussed within the MIT community.

Theodore A. Postol is an MIT professor of science technology and national security policy.

Notes and references:

1. The definition of Scientific Misconduct can be found in the Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 235, Dec. 6, 2000, page 76262 Federal Regulations on Scientific Misconduct: "Research misconduct is defined as fabrication ... [or] ... falsification ... in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record."

2. "Phase One Engineering Team" (POET) study, 1998. Two MIT Lincoln Laboratory staff were part of the team.

3. MIT Internal Inquiry Report, October 2002

4. Department of Defense (DoD) report: "Inquiry into the Allegations of Research Misconduct in Connection with [the MIT Lincoln Laboratory] POET Study 1998-5," released on Jan. 29, 2007. Appendix C of the DoD report contains an unclassified version of the MIT internal inquiry report, that reveals substantial evidence of research misconduct and fraud by both management and staff at MIT Lincoln Laboratory

5. Correspondence between Senator Carl Levin and former MIT President Charles M. Vest, obtained this past year through the Freedom of Information Act.

► continued from page 13

Aug. 28: David C. Schmittlein, deputy dean of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, has been chosen as the new dean of MIT's Sloan School of Management, MIT announces. Schmittlein will start on Oct. 15.

Aug. 28: Professor Theodore A. Postol '67, a well-known critic of missile-defense systems, accuses the U.S. of mischaracterizing missile defense capabilities in ongoing discussions with Russia at a Capitol Hill briefing through the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The U.S. Missile Defense Agency responds on Sept. 27.

Aug. 30: OpenLabWare, a Web-based project that teaches people about how research is done, is live at <http://olw.mit.edu/>, *The Tech* reports. The brainchild of George S. Zaidan '08, OLV will host "modules," or case studies of real research.

Sept. 1: Sorority recruitment and fraternity rush begin; this is the first time since 2002 that sorority recruitment will occur in the fall. *The Tech* later reports a record 163 bids given out to women who completed sorority recruitment, all of which were accepted, and 472 bids given out to 373 men who completed fraternity recruitment, resulting in at least 317 new pledges.

Sept. 4: A ribbon cutting ceremony is held as part of the formal opening of iHouse, a New House community focused on international development.

Sept. 6: Five people — including paramedics and volunteers for the Charles River Cleanup Boat — are injured in a boat fire on the Charles River that appears to have been caused by sodium. Local media draw a connection between the sodium on the bank of the Charles River and the MIT tradition of dropping sodium in the Charles River.

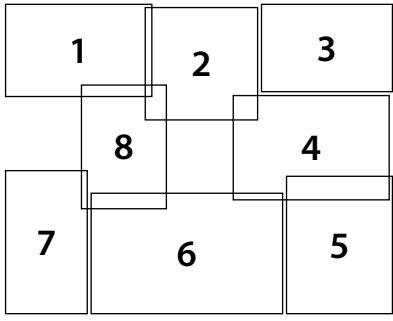
Sept. 7: Professors Barbara Liskov and Wesley Harris have been selected the share the new position of associate provost for faculty equity, MIT announces. The post was created a year ago.

Sept. 10: Hundreds of students and community members eat and socialize at the MIT Community Picnic on Killian Court, sponsored by the Office of the President.

Sept. 11: The Boston University Student Dental Plan, one of the least expensive of the options available to students in the area, will not be available to members of the MIT community this year, *The Tech* reports, possibly because of a number of complaints and cancellations from MIT students over the past year.

Sept. 12: The Dormitory Council elects Colleen P. Mosley '09 as their executive vice president, replacing James T. Albrecht '08 who passed away during the summer.

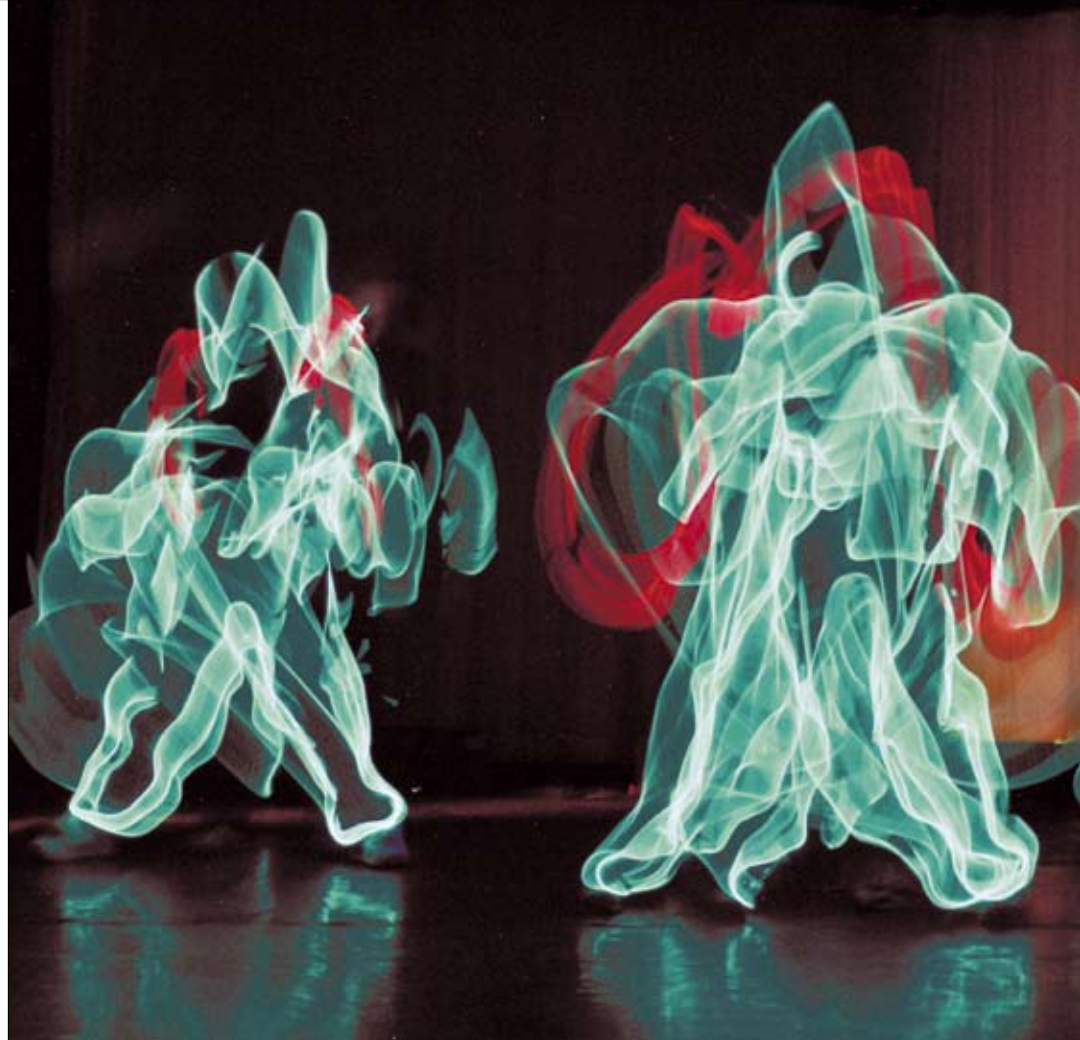
continued on page 21 ►►



- 1. CityDays, Aug. 31 —Alex H. Chan
- 2. MIT Juggling Club's Juggle Mania III, Nov. 17 —Eric D. Schmiedl
- 3. Head of the Zesiger Cardboard Boat Regatta, Oct. 19 —David M. Templeton
- 4. Commencement 2007, June 8 —David M. Templeton
- 5. Commencement 2007, June 8 —Brian Hemond
- 6. MIT Dance Troupe, May 13 —Brian Hemond
- 7. Former MIT Police Chief John DiFava —Eric D. Schmiedl
- 8. East Campus undergraduate dormitory Residence Exploration, Aug. 24 —Eric D. Schmiedl

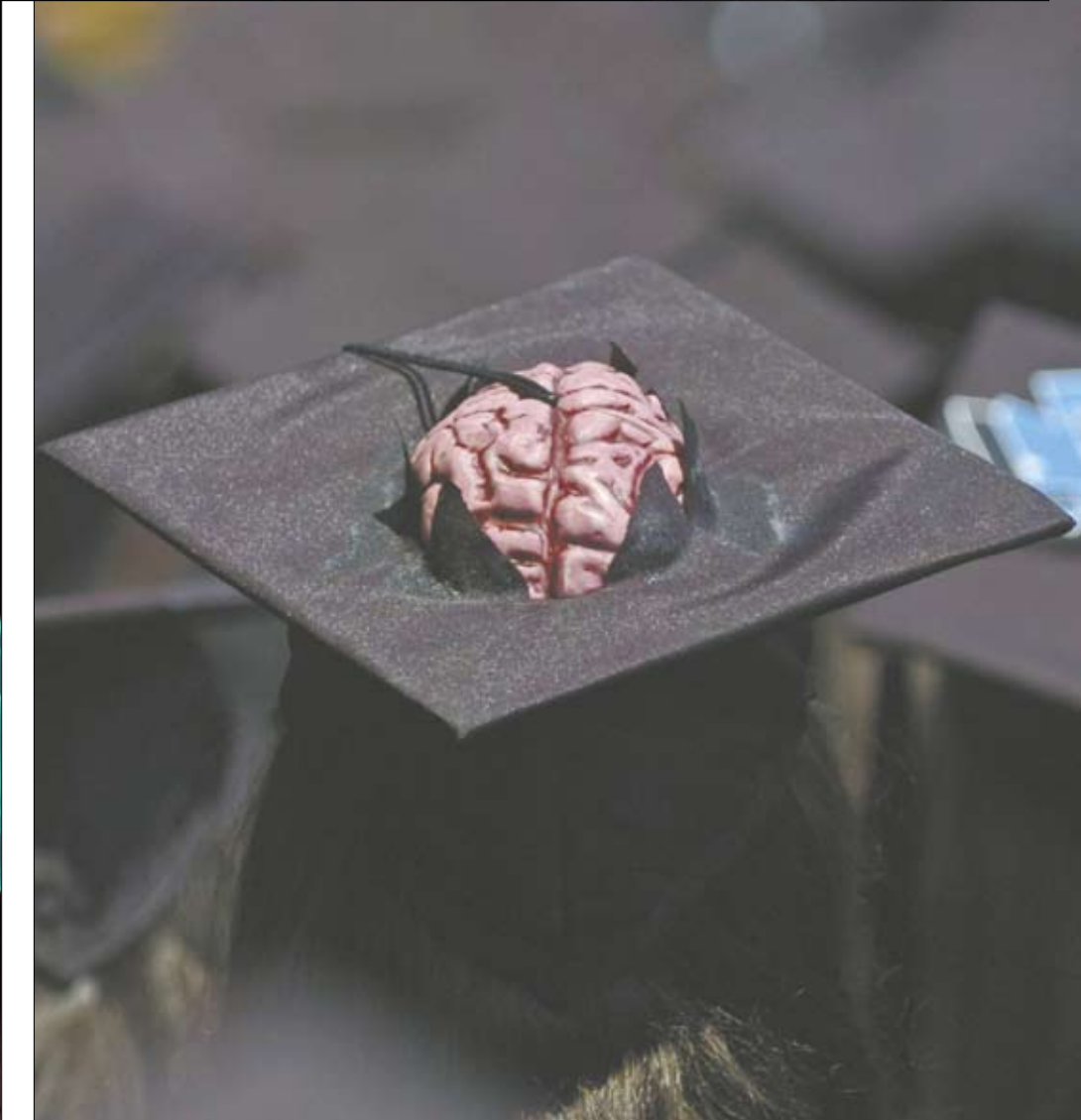
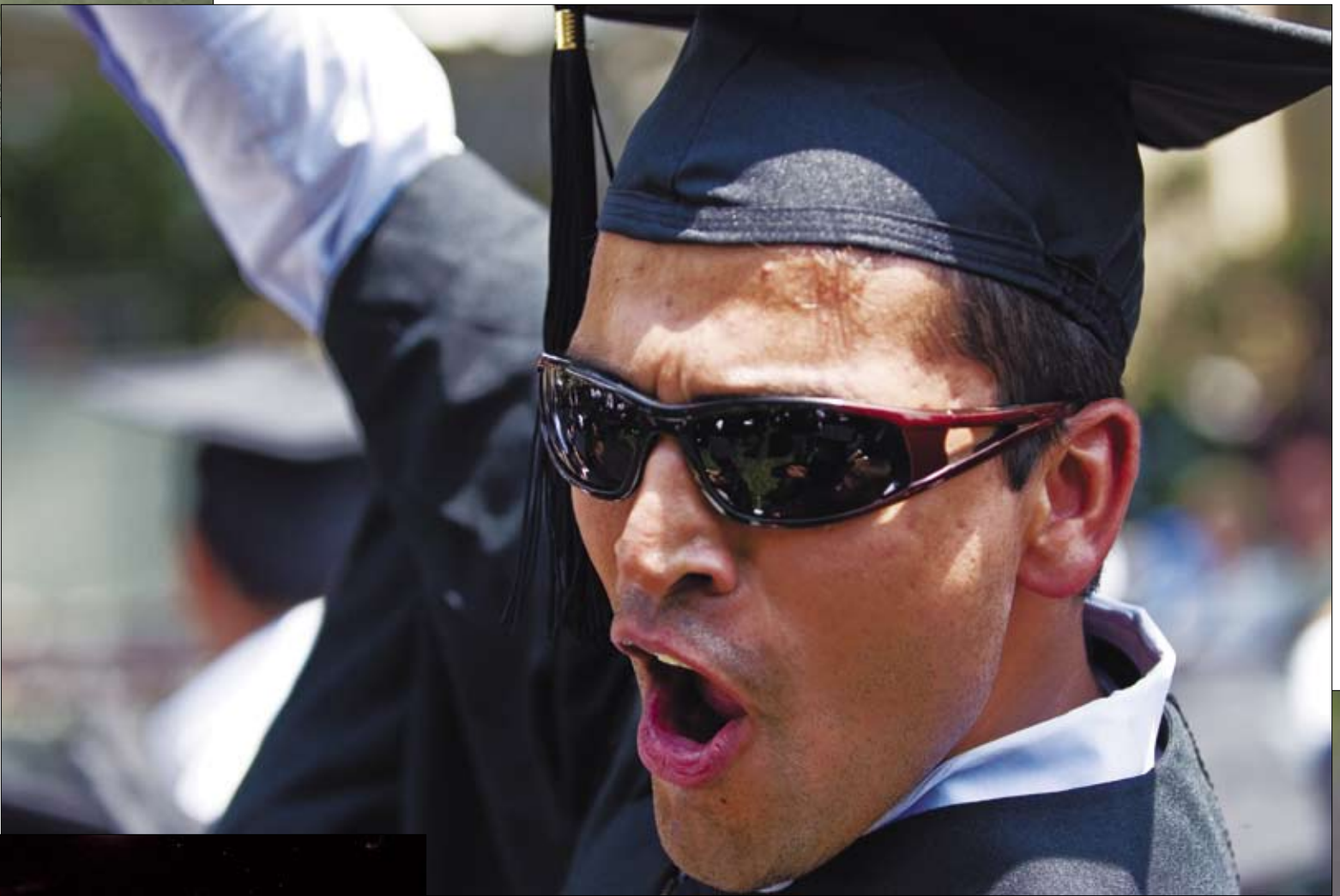


Through
The
9
Pict





the Lens
Year
in
Pictures



The Paradox of Institute Performance and Faculty Perceptions

By **Bish Sanyal**

During the last few months, as I served as the chair of the MIT faculty, I have been surprised by a phenomenon which I can only describe as a paradox. While all the indicators of MIT's institutional performance look quite positive and convey clearly that MIT remains a leading research university in the world, the faculty — not all, but a sizeable number — seem to feel that the Institute is not moving in the right direction, that its institutional norms and practices are changing, moving away from MIT's traditional culture of decentralized innovations towards a relatively centralized and somewhat corporate model of governance. This odd juxtaposition of success and alarm has been intriguing for me.

The record of MIT's success should be well known, thanks to periodic and well-organized events, such as the State of the Institute campus-wide presentation by the senior administrators. That is why I am surprised how often I have to recount all the "good things" that have happened either at MIT or to MIT when I hear complaints of the kinds I mentioned earlier.

For example, compared to the time not so long ago when MIT had to

freeze the faculty salary for a year, or reduce administrative support through "re-engineering," the Institute's current financial situation is very strong. Our endowment has increased steadily, our budget deficits have turned into surplus, we continue to recruit top quality faculty which is not cheap, and our allocation for student financial aid has also increased steadily over the last few years. If we look at other indicators, such as number of applications for admission, faculty productivity in research, and institutional investments in new initiatives, those too look quite good.

In terms of physical infrastructure, the kind of boom we witnessed with the construction of the Stata Center or Simmons Hall has subsided somewhat; nevertheless, two or three projects are currently underway, including construction of a new dormitory for students, renovation of an old dormitory, and construction of two new buildings, one for the Sloan School and the other for the extension of the Media Lab. Funds are also being raised from

private donors for additional projects.

MIT is also engaged in a mini-campaign, very soon after a major campaign, to raise funds for student fellowships and extra-curricular activities which enhance the quality of student life. Hence, overall, it seems to me that the basic indicators of the health of our institution all look quite good — in fact, better than what we experienced in the late 1990s or early 2000.

The faculty — not all, but a sizeable number — seem to feel that the Institute is not moving in the right direction.

And, yet, there is still unease and discontent about the current state of MIT. In my meetings with faculty, I hear that MIT is changing from a place that celebrated decentralized innovations by unpretentious academics to one that is managed increasingly by a centralized group comprised primarily of non-academics. As the chair of the faculty, I do participate in one such centralized group, called the Academic Council. I am struck by the range and depth of issues discussed at the council meetings where I have the opportunity to present the faculty's concerns at any time.

The December faculty meeting

indicated yet another concern of the faculty — that MIT's relationship to its own community members is being influenced more by current legal concerns than old norms. It is true that MIT now has a legal counsel, as many other top-ranking universities also do, because the legal climate which now affects the academic institution is very different than, say, 20 years ago.

Finally, some faculty are concerned that more attention seems to be paid to MIT's international engagements than what happens at 02139 Cambridge, Mass. The good news is that MIT's international reputation continues to flourish, and much effort is being devoted by a special task force, headed by Associate Provost Philip S. Khoury and Vice President for Research Claude R. Canizares, to address the kinds of issues which concern the faculty.

What explains the paradox then? That is the question that intrigues me, and I hope I can play a positive role in bridging the gap between institutional performance and faculty perceptions which is necessary for strengthening the learning environment at MIT.

Bish Sanyal is the chair of the MIT faculty and a professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

A Year of Quiet Victories for Student-Led Initiatives

►► from **Wyne** on page 15

have a dining hall and program (*The Tech*, Dec. 7, 2007). This decision was apparently made without input from the Blue Ribbon Committee, which outgoing Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict tasked with undertaking a complete reassessment of dining at MIT.

The W1 decision confirms that we — students, that is — are not going to win every time, and we should not expect to either. It also reminds us of the pressing challenges that we confront. Professor James L. Sherley's hunger strike prompted another review of the Institute's stance on matters of race. The felony charges against three students who set off a burglar alarm in the E52 Faculty Club renewed the discussion on hacking guidelines.

The most important issues, however, and the ones that will require our greatest thought this year, are those that involve MIT's obligations to its students and to the outside of the world — obligations that can, and often do, conflict. Take the case of Star A. Simpson '10. Did MIT speak too quickly? Should administrators have consulted with her before they issued their statement to the media? Was that statement's use of the word "reckless" appropriate? In an open letter to President Susan Hockfield, Sarah F. Ackley '08 stated that she was "appalled that MIT has failed to give Star its full support in this matter" (*The Tech*, Sept.

25, 2007) — so, too, were many other MIT students. There is a perception that the Institute has grown less supportive of its students.

A student protest letter published one day before Ackley's opinion piece asked, "What happened to 'All Tech men carry batteries'?", a question that Professor Patrick H. Winston also invoked at a faculty meeting addressing the same issue. Whether or not the quote is real, the perception that MIT is less supportive of students than in years past certainly is.

This conviction strengthened when MIT did not defend 19 students who were subpoenaed by the Recording Industry Association of America for allegedly downloading music illegally. Erik R. Speed '09 lambasted the Institute for "throwing its students to the dogs," arguing that "appeasing the RIAA" has undermined students and further restricted informational flows (*The Tech*, Dec. 7, 2007). The RIAA case has been particularly damaging to MIT's credibility in supporting its students because it pits a powerful corporation against disempowered students.

As 2008 unfolds, it is clear that we have much work to do. As always, it is uncertain how we will fare in addressing the myriad of important issues that we face. It is also clear, however, that we can make great progress if we galvanize and persevere — such should be our mantra for the new year.

Ali S. Wyne '08 is the vice president of the Undergraduate Association.

Not Just Another Ivy League

►► from **Hopp** on page 16

discussions were cut short when administrators deserted the committees and completed the decision-making behind closed doors.

Not only was the decision frustrating because of the lack of student input, but it went against MIT's oft-vaunted tradition of student involvement and scientific approach to problems. With four nearby dining halls hemorrhaging money and a fifth already closed, the addition of another facility makes little sense economically. MIT needs to look at the big picture and develop a strategic plan instead of offering ineffective piecemeal solutions as issues arise. This year, approximately \$50K was spent on consultants hired to collaborate with students and administrators to form an effective plan for dining. However, this investment has lost its utility since plans for a W1 dining facility have been prematurely set in stone without the input of this new dining committee. Students have been cut out of the picture, as have the consultants with the expertise to integrate student ideas into a successful new system.

Many administrators are trying to fit MIT student life into the pre-packaged models in use at other elite universities. Dining serves as a prominent example of this. Students at MIT thrive on self-governance and choice, and when MIT looks to other institutions' models before looking to students, these values are overlooked. In such a stressful environment as MIT, it is important to give students the freedom to develop programs that will

harmonize best with their busy lives. While finding the best possible system is important, and change is certainly not all bad, only MIT students know what is best for themselves.

Community building around dining has been the central focus in MIT student life in recent years. If administrators were willing to meet eye-to-eye with students, share frequent meals in a dining hall or a kitchen, in a dormitory or an FSILG, they would understand that we already have an amazing, supportive community for every different type of student and we don't need dining programs to foster it. Even if we're not eating in a dining hall, or participating in some other sort of official community-building event, we're socializing and supporting each other in lounges, hallways, courtyards, and suites all around campus. These community bonds are what will excite prospective students, help current students learn and survive, and encourage alumni (and their pocketbooks) to stay involved.

The strength of MIT's community cannot be attributed to the vision of one, but to the collective creative power of many individual students. In the coming year, I hope that administrators will take further advantage of that creativity and that community, and seek more student contact and input. Most of all, though, I hope that administrators will look beyond what other universities are doing and realize that maintaining MIT's unique identity is the only way we will continue to achieve excellence.

Sarah C. Hopp '08 is the president of Dormitory Council.

The Year in Tech Editorials

► from *Editorials* on page 15

a practical solution so that this kind of situation does not arise again.

RBA Limits Freshman Choice, August 28, 2007

Dormitories which offer Residence-Based Advising should give freshmen a chance to get out — or get in — during Orientation. The Housing Readjustment Lottery ... should not exclude McCormick Hall and Next House. ...

Under the current system, there is no way for freshmen to “try out” these RBA dormitories. Potential residents are doubtless deterred by the fact that they will not be able to move if they find they are happier elsewhere. Thus, it is likely that fewer people apply to RBA dormitories, and those dormitories lose out on the chance for valuable community members who prefer to pick a residence after arriving at MIT. ... The current system discourages choice and yields no real benefit.

Choice is a bedrock principle of housing at MIT; our unique dormitories and their residents set the Institute apart from many other universities. It is in everyone’s best interest to give students more choice.

Why We Can’t Tell You to J**n The Tech — Aug. 29, 2007

The ASA should eliminate its complex and unnecessary recruitment rules. In addition, the ASA should advocate for the movement of the Activities Midway to earlier in the week, possibly by rotating the major day-time events of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Finally, the ASA should encourage student groups to use more of its early returns to help the new students of MIT explore more of their extracurricular interests before they get mired in class work. The purpose of the ASA is to foster the well being of student groups, not to strangle them

The purpose of the ASA is to foster the well being of student groups, not to strangle them in needless red tape.

in needless red tape. ...

In the last seven years, the format of Orientation has changed radically, but the ASA recruiting rules have failed to keep up. ...

More fundamentally, the ASA recruitment regulations (http://tech.mit.edu/V127/N33/ASA-Recruitment_Rules_2006.pdf) are unnecessary, at least in their current form. What used to be an informal agreement to use common sense not to overwhelm the freshmen has devolved into today’s complex set of regulations, imposing a fraternity-rush-style ban on early advertising and events.

Sodium Doesn’t Just Fall From the Sky — Sept. 18, 2007

Who should be accountable for the apparent accident that led to five people being burned by sodium on Thursday, Sept. 6? If MIT community members left sodium metal next to the Charles River, they should claim responsibility for their actions. If no responsible party can be found, the Institute should still help the people who have been hurt. ...

Most students who organize large-scale events with potential hazards, like Sodium Drop and Orange Tours, exercise extreme caution; and the annual student-run Sodium Drop has occurred for years without causing any injuries. MIT officials and police have in the past implicitly endorsed the annual Sodium Drop by turning a blind eye to it. *The Tech*, Wikipedia, and MIT’s own Admissions blogs have mentioned the event for years. Institute attempts to ban this tradition would not measurably improve safety. ...

If the people responsible for the sodium fire cannot be identified, MIT should err on the side of taking too

Choice is a bedrock principle of housing at MIT. It is in everyone’s best interest to give students more choice.

much blame and should volunteer to help the burn victims from the Charles River Cleanup Boat volunteers and emergency responders. The Institute, which has donated to the Cleanup Boat effort in all four years of that organization’s existence, should cover the costs of medical treatment and pay to make the boat seaworthy again.

Support Our Students — Sept. 25, 2007

Star A. Simpson ’10 made an honest mistake when she wore a glowing circuit board to Logan International Airport. State police responded reasonably to a perceived threat, and they quickly determined that Simpson’s attire posed no threat at all. She was cooperative, and they were professional. It should have ended there.

But then a police representative told an eager crowd of reporters that “thankfully,” Simpson had cooperated and “ended up in a cell as opposed to the morgue.” The Suffolk County district attorney pressed charges of possessing a hoax device. National news reports displayed a recklessly sensationalistic disregard for the truth by using phrases like “fake bomb strapped to her chest.” MIT — which should be acting to help its student — was curiously quiet, releasing only a statement that “[a]s reported to us by the authorities, Simpson’s actions were reckless and understandably created alarm at the airport.”

Instead, the Institute should make the facts of the case clear — that Simpson and the device were harmless — and the district attorney’s office should drop the charges against Simpson. ...

By remaining silent and unresponsive, MIT risks losing the good will (and the dollars) of its technically inclined alumni and future alumni. Worse, if MIT gains a reputation for prioritizing its image over its students’ well-being, talented prospective students will be turned off by the Institute.

The Great Copyright Crackdown

► from *Schiller* on page 16

temptation, because the incentives are all wrong. And if you don’t happen to have an iPod, or subscribe to iTunes, this is exactly the position you’re in.

Content owners, particularly the Recording Industry Association of America, have become more aggressive in enforcing the copyrights of their members. Instead of fixing the incentives by making the legal options more appealing, they’re trying to change behavior by making it more likely that you get caught. At this point everyone has heard about “takedown” notices and subpoenas. However it doesn’t stop there. Several companies have gone into the business of developing products to technologically enforce copyright at the network level by attempting to detect the presence of peer-to-peer file-sharing technologies. They, along with some in the content industry, have been lobbying Congress to mandate some form of technologi-

cal control to stop piracy.

Unfortunately, none of these technologies really work particularly well. Most of them stop all peer-to-peer file-sharing, including file-sharing that is completely legitimate. These products also can act as network bottlenecks,

Civil disobedience may be appropriate to try to remedy a real injustice, but then you have to stand up and be prepared to pay the price.

having a performance impact on all network traffic. So where should MIT and its students stand in this battle?

First, we can say to the music industry, “You have to straighten the incentives,” but for now, they can say, “We have the law on our side.” Maybe they should change, but they’re not

obligated to. Meanwhile, there is no real justification for illegal behavior. Students sometimes say, “I’m going to violate the law because I think the law is wrong,” but that’s not a valid decision. Civil disobedience may be appropriate to try to remedy a real injustice, but then you have to stand up and be prepared to pay the price. MIT won’t stand with you in this case, and I don’t think MIT should. The way MIT should and can effect change is through legal means.

As we go into 2008 we can expect to see more positioning as the various interests face off against each other. But for now, a word of advice. Sharing music and video may seem a quick and easy thing to do, but if the work is copyrighted, it is also infringing behavior that can cost you serious money. And the likelihood that you’re going to get caught is going up. So don’t do it!

Jeffrey I. Schiller ’79 is the MIT network manager for Information Services and Technology.

► continued from page 17

Sept. 14: MIT’s fall from fourth to seventh place in the *U.S. News and World Report* college ranking was caused in part by changes in how MIT computes class sizes and by corrections in how MIT reports its entering class’s SAT scores, *The Tech* reports.

Sept. 14: The MIT endowment grew by \$1.6 billion this year, bringing the total to \$9.98 billion, *The Tech* reports. MIT reported returns of 22 percent.

Sept. 14: A bedbug problem that has been plaguing Ashdown House since the spring has been resolved, *The Tech* reports.

Sept. 16: A Boston-area university student reports that she was sexually assaulted on the MIT campus in the early morning after leaving a party at Senior House. In an e-mail to the community the next day, President Susan Hockfield said that there was no indication MIT students were involved in the attack.

Sept. 18: Season 4 of reality show “Beauty and the Geek” premieres on the CW. John U. Gardner G, a member of the MIT Class of 2007, is a contestant. Gardner is eliminated in the eighth week of the show.

Sept. 18: MIT donates \$6,000 to the Charles River Cleanup Boat, the volunteer organization faced with bills for decontamination and boat repair after its volunteers picked up a chunk of sodium that caught fire and exploded on Sept. 6. The Institute has donated to the organization each year for the last four years.

Sept. 21: Star A. Simpson ’10, wearing a circuit board with light-emitting diodes that was connected to a battery, is arrested at gunpoint at Logan International Airport and is charged with possession of a hoax device. MIT issues a widely-quoted press release calling Simpson’s actions “reckless.”

Sept. 24: Approximately 30 students gather to protest the administration’s handling of controversies involving students; the protest focusing on the Star A. Simpson ’10 arrest and the MIT statement calling Simpson’s actions “reckless.” Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict and other administrators speak with the student protestors.

Sept. 25: Oliver R. Smoot ’62, known for the marks on the Harvard Bridge, and author Robert Tavernor are on campus to discuss Tavernor’s recently-published book *Smoot’s Ear: The Measure of Humanity*.

Sept. 29: The MIT Museum unveils a \$3 million expansion and renovation, which gives the museum a new ground level with 5,000 square feet of additional space.

Sept. 30: Robert M. Randolph, former senior associate dean for students, is installed as MIT’s first Institute Chaplain. He began his work in January 2007.

Sept. 30: The Undergraduate Association holds its first Freshman Class Council Presidential Debate.

continued on page 25 ►►

New Admins Can't Take Nerd Culture for Granted

► from *Miller* on page 16

it — why can't MIT?

Fortunately, not all of these experiences were so exasperating. During a slew of meetings to discuss the felony-charged hackers, one administrator — on his way to catch a plane and hurriedly stuffing papers into a briefcase as we spoke — stopped cold when I said, “We don't want to be held responsible for letting this happen on our watch.”

“On your watch?” he asked, rightfully insulted. “How about on my watch? Do you think I, Hockfield, or anyone else wants to be held responsible by the alumni or the Corporation for letting this happen?” A few decades-deep into MIT, he felt the

weight of the MIT community better than either of the second semester seniors sitting in his office.

Administrators new to MIT, particularly those tasked with improving student life or learning, must understand the unique relationship between student and Institute from both the Institute and the student's perspective. The caliber of minds that MIT competes for are attracted by more than rankings — MIT students expect a certain level of responsibility, choice, and autonomy in exchange for their brilliant and feverish academic work.

Overall, 2007 wasn't really so bad. Rather than defining a great problem of the past, I'll frame 2008 as an opportunity to bring in a fresh wave of

consensus-seeking administrators. But each new administrator entering MIT needs to see his or her position as that of collaborator ready to understand and engage students, not just members in the party of new ideas.

Whether this is best conducted through the training of new administrators in the ways of MIT student life, or in the recruitment of MIT students into the ways of administration, is an open question. I'd love to see students invited to create an orientation for new hires. Students need to continue building relationships with administrators and making their perspectives tangible. And until former UA VPs are offered advisory roles within the Institute, the UA needs to find a way for students

seated on Institute Committees to be better representatives.

As MIT grows in new and unpredictable ways, leading the world in the few dozen fields that we occasionally take for granted, its leaders must remember that they are guiding more than just an investment portfolio or research lab. Taking the time to understand what attracts brilliant minds to MIT (we could have gone to Yale if we'd wanted to, but each of us chose to come to MIT) and supporting those activities, lifestyles, and dispositions that make MIT unique will preserve our greatest attraction — our culture — for another 146 years.

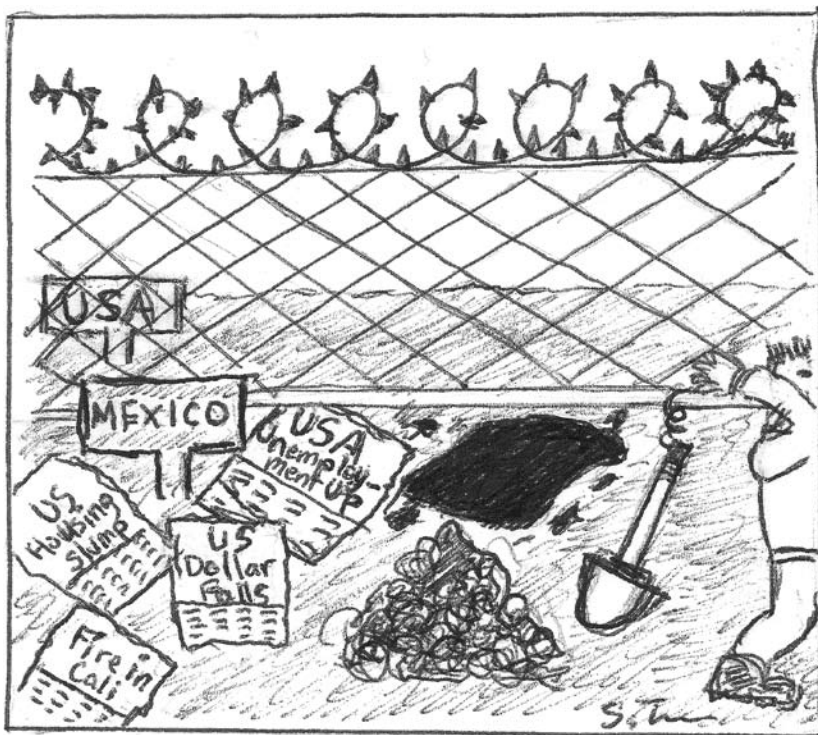
Ruth Miller '07 was vice president of the Undergraduate Association from 2006-07.

The Year in Editorial Cartoons

Kayvan Zainabadi 4/12/07



MIT's Sudan divestment dilemma



by Shiliang Tang '08 — Oct. 30

“Screw it”

Retaining MIT's Uniqueness

► from *Lerman* on page 15

gether without regard to race, gender, religion, economic class, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

One of MIT's great strengths has been the deep sense of community that covers the entire administration, faculty, staff, and student body. The recent controversy surrounding MIT's comments about Star A. Simpson's '10 arrest may be symptomatic of emerging fractures in the strong ties that have traditionally bound us together. We need to continue efforts to sustain these ties and the implicit social contract that has kept the community unified around a shared set of values.

MIT must continue to serve both

We must retain the quirkiness that is quintessentially MIT. 'Nerd Pride' isn't just a slogan.

the nation and the world. This means being a global university that embraces international students as a source of new talent and opportunities. Our recent emphasis on providing students with a broad array of educationally meaningful opportunities outside the United States is just the down payment on our becoming truly global. MIT-educated students will be leaders in a world that our grandparents could never have envisioned. Ideas flow seamlessly across international boundaries, businesses operate at a global scale, and new challenges to our core values can arise from anywhere on the planet. We need to resist the emergent xenophobic tendencies that arise in society as knee-jerk reactions to globalization.

Finally, we must retain the quirkiness that is quintessentially MIT. “Nerd Pride” isn't just a slogan, it's a style of education and life that we need to respect and embrace as an essential element of MIT's culture.

Steven R. Lerman '72 is the dean for graduate students.

a year of ARTS

The Ten Best Albums of 2007

By Sarah Dupuis and Andrew Lee

How does one define 2007 in terms of the music it produced? Surely the selections should reflect the events of the year: in this case, record low temperatures, iPhones for everyone, and an over-abundance of celebrity crotch-baring. At the same time, records making the annual list should be timeless; they should be representative not only of yearly trends, but also be able to withstand a 10-year flashback without much embarrassment on the reviewer's behalf.

A first, this list seemed impossible. There were a couple of obvious top picks, a few extreme disappointments, and a sea of seeming mediocrity filled up with unknown self-releases, iPod bands, and just plain bad electronica. At the cost of sounding rockist (only because our list incidentally seems to glorify the white and the guitar-bearing), I think we have done the job of sea sifting with some expertise and have culminated our findings into the best of the best. Here we present a top 10 countdown of albums that exemplified 2007 as we (and maybe you) lived it.

10. Caribou — Andorra

Andorra, the fourth full length from the artist formerly known as Manitoba, is named after the tiny, Catalan-speaking country nestled in the Pyrenees between Spain and France. What has this to do with the music, you ask? More than you'd initially think. Psychedelic with sleigh bells, multi-tracks, and monumental orchestration, *Andorra* is like the center of an open cluster, irregularly binding isolated genres to create a unique yet familiar sound (like the hybrid language and secluded culture of the Andorrans themselves).

Opening track "Melody Day" waits not even a second before kicking into full speed, utilizing fuzzy bass, lax double-tracked vocals, anachronistic guitars, and flutophone (?!?!?) to get its strange, otherworldly message across. This sound continues throughout the record and succeeds especially on "She's the One," which uses a percussive and repetitive backing vocal track, handclaps, vibraslap, and electronics to convey a strangely instrumented pop love song. — Dupuis

9. A Sunny Day in Glasgow — Scribble Mural Comic Journal

Even if you disregard how A Sunny

Day in Glasgow is fronted by a pair of identical twins, there's no way you could confuse them with anything normal or even terrestrial. This album sounds so evolved, it could've just as easily been recorded in 3007 ... in another solar system.

Vocalists Robin and Lauren Daniels channel some ancient non-language as their brother Ben drapes their ghostly melodies with not but the finest and most surreal synthesizer effects. Dream pop has always been about the pursuit of perfection in both sound as well as structure, and *Scribble Mural Comic Journal* comes startlingly close to achieving it. And we're meant to believe this is a debut? — Lee

8. Panda Bear — Person Pitch

Panda Bear (a.k.a. Noah Lennox) is a one-man chorus from the clouds in this masterpiece of sound that is just as crowded as its menagerie-in-a-hot-tub cover art. *Person Pitch* is so dense with reverb that the foreground is nonexistent. What's left is a tasty mixing bowl of samples, electronic effects, and even street noises that celebrate the busy asphalt-foliage meld our world has grown into. (What negative connotations?) This is a record that can be enjoyed equally as a soundtrack to your morning commute on the T or an archaeological expedition through the Amazonian jungle. Or, for the truly imaginative, both at once. — Lee

7. Blitzen Trapper — Wild Mountain Nation

It's painfully redundant to tell you that Portland is housing some pretty freaking fantastic musicians at the moment, including but not limited to Menomena (which you'll be hearing more about shortly) and Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks (see: all-time hero). Well, another Portland favorite (and *Tech* year-end chart topper) has toured with the latter and will play with the former next month; this can only mean good things. Blitzen Trapper (oft compared to Malkmus' inaugural band Pavement, and with good reason) combine raucous, oddly timed guitar lines with in-your-face mountainous folk. Sound impossible? Check out *Wild Mountain Nation*, the third and last album BT self-released before signing to Sub Pop last summer. The band seems to be possessed by a couple of copyrighted ghosts: the first some part of Matador's early '90s lineup, the second a kissing cousin of modern-day Wilco. Consider *Wild Mountain Nation* the lo-fi recording of the exorcism, performed by unordained priests with demonic intent. — Dupuis

6. Deerhunter — Cryptograms

Frontman Brandon Cox's eccentric and candid live performances (and interviews, and blog posts) made him one of the most compelling

rock personalities to arrive in 2007. The hype surrounding Deerhunter's breakthrough album was so polarizing that you could basically put anyone who listened to it into two camps: those who thought the emperor had no clothes and those who thought the emperor had really, really good clothes. Place me among the latter group who see *Cryptograms* as a revelation painted in noise and distortion. What is truly superb about this album is its symmetry and balance: for every moment of aggression and bristling squalor, there is one of calm and poignant desolation. With a track list that alternates between electrifying post-punk and serene shoegaze, *Cryptograms* is an astonishingly tangible portrait of a wounded childhood. — Lee

5. White Rabbits — Fort Nightly

In an article published in *The Tech* last spring, I asked: "Am I allowed to declare an album of the year as early as March?" The now-obvious answer: No, you're not. Okay, so *Fort Nightly* didn't wind up topping the annual ranking, but placing fifth ain't too shabby. Driving piano lines, laid-back Caribbean beats, assaulting drums, and constantly groovy guitars define this six-piece's unique sound, which the band has described as "honey-tonk calypso." Throw in some fantastically devious harmonies, cooler-than-cool frontmen who trade songs with minimal hassle, and a generally debauched attitude and you've got all the components of their 2007 debut. According to the Bushwick band themselves, a new album is in the works. Maybe next time I'll prematurely rank it and then follow through with my prediction. — Dupuis

4. Of Montreal — Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?

In the decade or so that Of Montreal has existed, songwriter Kevin Barnes has made a living penning chaotic melodies that paint themselves into a corner and only occasionally escape. Only the most diehard of fans can say that every Of Montreal song is good, but only the most cynical and heartless music fan could say that any song on *Hissing Fauna* is bad. This album takes its place among the great breakup albums in recent memory alongside Blur's *13* and The Clientele's *Strange Geometry* with lyrics that may hit close to home in the most absurd way possible ("Somehow you've red-rovered the Gestapo circling my heart"). The sheer volume of ideas and the frenetic pace at which they're delivered establish Barnes as some sort of mad genius; who else could turn heartbreak into such pleasure overload? — Lee

3. The Besnard Lakes — ... Are the Dark Horse

The eight tracks on this record average almost six minutes in length and have titles such as "Disaster" and "Devastation." Clearly, a song is no trifling matter in the eyes of the Besnard Lakes; this is as anthemic and passionate as indie rock gets. By combining equal parts Beach Boys and

Lynyrd Skynyrd in a slow burn, the Montreal-based Besnard Lakes span the coasts and make the most authentically American album ever made by an un-American band. The husband and wife team of Jace Lasek and Olga Goreas save the album's most affecting moment for the their finale, "Cedric's War," which rides a defeated vocal harmony into a "Good Vibrations"-type finish that's equally thrilling as the real thing. The album title could reflect the underdog status the band has had in the Montreal scene, but it's hard to imagine how an album this perfect could be so underrated. — Lee

2. Menomena — Friend and Foe

Had Menomena continued the anagrammatic theme of their first album, *I Am the Fun Blame Monster* (a rearrangement of "the first Menomena album"), they might have noticed that *Friend and Foe* conveniently turns into "Faded Inferno." Of course, Menomena is also a lot cooler than I am, and they probably spend less time on wordsmith.org. Anyway, indulge me, 'cause faded inferno is actually a pretty fitting phrase. Musically and lyrically, this album is all about balances between dark desires and noble aspirations, hell and heaven, and, duh, friends and foes. The crazy agitated crashes of Danny Seim's drums and Justin Harris' smooth yet pleasingly raucous saxophone create the soundscape of a world in chaos, while Brent Knopf's staccato piano and powerful organ toss a religious element into the trio's dark, comic, and at times bathetic mix. Of course, for all my rambling analyses, an accurate description of Menomena and their latest record can be truncated to two succinct words, as is often the case with rock reviews: FUCKING ROCKS. — Dupuis

1. Radiohead — In Rainbows

After what may have been the 10 most anticipatory days of my music-listening career, Radiohead's seventh LP, *In Rainbows*, emerged for the general public's consumption via the group's Web site, "Dead Air Space." This album's importance in '07 is obvious for a number of reasons: its label-less release, its innovative online distribution, the attention it's received from media outlets such as CNN, and, oh, I don't know, the fact that it's a Radiohead record in general. Its musical subtleties, however, are what make it the most important album of '07. On the surface, it's an unapologetic exploration of both sonic and worldly beauty, combining true soul melodies and instrumentation with aching words of sadness, longing, and love. This might be off-putting for those who have come to expect that good ole' Yorkeian disquietude, but further album archaeology — especially on Disc 2 — uncovers apocalyptic intent and themes as mad as any past effort. It's the phenomenally fitting combination of these dipolar modes that makes *In Rainbows* top of the pops this calendar year, and surely this sentiment will carry over for years to come. — Dupuis

CARIBOUandorra



On the Silver Screen: Major Movies of 2007

By Jillian A. Berry, Samuel J. Cole,
Sarah Dupuis, Alice Macdonald,
and Kevin Wang

Every year, there are certain movies that stand out from the rest. Some shine as cinematic masterpieces full of magnificent acting and direction. Others push the boundaries of technology and reinvent how movies are made. Still others stand out for telling captivating stories. Whatever the reason, below are our picks for the most significant movies of 2007.

Juno

What do you get when you cross a pregnant sixteen-year-old with a not-so-perfect, perfect suburban couple? A comedy, of course. In one of the best films of the year, Ellen Page and an all star supporting cast bring laughter to the drama of teenage pregnancy. Sure, the movie makes light of a serious problem, but it's so entertaining with humor and heart that you can't help but love it. —Berry

I Am Legend

Will Smith claims more people flipped him off while he was shooting "I Am Legend" on location in Manhattan than he's ever encountered in his whole life. Apparently, New Yorkers didn't take too well to having their city closed down for the film's shooting, but the resultant on-screen empty metropolis was surely worth the abundance of rude gestures. An abandoned Fifth Avenue far outshone the computerized zombies in terms of fright factor, but Smith's outstanding portrayal of physical and mental survival in a nearly apocalyptic city made this late arrival a top pick of the year. —Dupuis

Waitress

I wonder if I would have heard of or seen "Waitress" if not for the infamous death of its writer and director Adrienne Shelly (she was murdered while finishing post-production for the film), but I'm glad I have since it is such a wonderful film. Keri Russell plays Jenna, a woman stuck in an unhappy marriage who finds out she is pregnant, destroying any chances of her leaving her husband. All the while, she relieves her stress by mak-



ing creative and delicious pies with names like "I Hate My Husband Pie" and "Pregnant Miserable Self Pitying Loser Pie ... Lumpy oatmeal with fruitcake mashed in. Flambé of course." A little romance with a young doctor completes this humorous and touching film. —Berry

No Country for Old Men

If there was an Oscar for the creepiest haircut ever, it would go to Javier Bardem for his role as an unstoppable killer in "No Country for Old Men." I guess he will have to settle for best supporting actor, which he deserves to win. Shot in a desolate region of Texas, "No Country for Old Men" completely transports you to another world and all aspects of the film are integrated seamlessly. Some viewers may be disappointed or confused by the anti-climactic ending, but overall this is one of the best films of the year. Of course, we expect nothing less from writing and directing pair Ethan and Joel Coen. —Macdonald

There Will Be Blood

Oh, that Daniel Day-Lewis. He may be a nut job, but he sure can act. Every film he actually gets around to doing is an automatic Oscar nod. "There Will Be Blood" is no exception.

Contrary to the title, the film is not a murder mystery or a gruesome horror film; it is the story of a turn-of-the-century oil tycoon. Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson of "Boogie Nights" fame, this film is being lauded as an epic masterpiece and is sure to pick up some more big prizes this award season. —Macdonald

American Gangster

A controversial subject for a biopic (with the lawsuits to prove it), "American Gangster" follows the climb, peak, fall, and (cinematic) redemption of notorious, Vietnam-era heroin kingpin Frank Lucas. Denzel Washington's portrayal of Lucas is largely fictionalized but still brilliantly depicts a man who was violent, glamorous, and utterly in control. His performance is contrasted expertly by Russell Crowe, whose squeaky-clean cop character compensates for his unsound personal life by aggressively and brilliantly fighting for a solution to drug crimes. —Dupuis

Zodiac

Jake Gyllenhaal's roles seem to possess him, and this is certainly true in the murder flick and biopic "Zodiac." Gyllenhaal plays real life cartoonist-turned-novelist Robert Graysmith,

who falls into an amateur investigation of the horrific Zodiac serial killings that took place in the late 1960s. The film is long, truly, but also engaging; it offers the historical gore while also revealing the real manifestations of the investigation in Graysmith's life. We feel his rightful paranoia, we grow uneasy as his obsession destroys his marriage, and we bite our nails as he happens upon the truth. —Dupuis

The Darjeeling Limited

The fifth full-length installation in director Wes Anderson's cinematic collection, "The Darjeeling Limited" follows the emotional yet basic reunion of three out-of-touch brothers on the Indian-bound titular train. You can always expect a sensory overload in Wes' World; the Satyajit Ray-meets-Kinks soundtrack especially aids the East-meets-West theme. But the best part of this film is its three leading men. Vets Jason Schwartzman and Owen Wilson usher in new pledge Adrien Brody with gusto, allowing Anderson to portray yet another wonderfully weird dysfunctional family. —Dupuis

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

One of the standout foreign films of the year, this French oeuvre takes full advantage of the visual medium to create a beautiful and dreamy landscape. It is the story of a man left completely paralyzed except for a single eyelid after a stroke who still manages to dictate his memoirs. Oscar nominated director Julian Schnabel takes the true story of former *Elle* editor Jean-Dominique Bauby and melds it with a beautiful soundtrack and terrific performances to yield a film that is touching while remaining subtle. —Macdonald

Michael Clayton

The problem with George Clooney is this: on one hand, he makes great films that no one ever sees, but on the other hand, he makes pieces of cinematic shit that everyone flocks to. Last year's "Oceans Thirteen," which grossed \$36 million in



Juno

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its opening weekend, is a prime example of the latter. Thankfully, Clooney also made “Michael Clayton” last year. The thing is: no one actually wants to watch this far superior film. I mean, which would you rather see, a film where Clooney robs a casino with Brad Pitt, or a moral parable on corporate America?

— Macdonald

Ratatouille

“Ratatouille” follows the escapades of Remy the rat on his quest to break away from normal rat society and become a world-renowned chef. By chance he befriends Linguini, a clumsy young kitchen cleaner, and eventually they find themselves working together to bring famous Chef Gusteau’s restaurant into the limelight once again. Employing some of the most amazing computer animation ever created, the film tackles many themes in a surprisingly intelligent and mature nature. The movie’s inspirational messages of courage, determination, and growth make it one of the most affecting and heartwarming movies of recent memory.

— Cole

The Bourne Ultimatum

“The Bourne Ultimatum” provides a fitting and appropriate end to the Bourne trilogy — so fitting, in fact, that it’s virtually indistinguishable from the first two. Matt Damon delivers a strong performance with a grittier, modern take on the classic spy role. Overall, the film provides an exciting and engaging adventure, although the visuals sometimes resemble a handy-cam being thrown into a washing machine.

— Wang

The Simpsons Movie

After nearly two decades on the small screen, the Simpson family finally made it to the big time with this summer’s “The Simpsons Movie.” Essentially a 90-minute episode from some of the more classic (and funnier) television seasons, the movie brings together everyone from Springfield in this hilarious adventure that starts with Homer falling in love with a pig.



The Bourne Ultimatum

And like any good episode of this show, the film emphasizes the importance of family in our fight for life.

— Berry

Superbad

“Superbad,” co-written by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, followed June’s sick, sexual, and sweet “Knocked Up” by only a few months, but this Frat Pack feature offered a little something special: sardonic and filthy wit coming out of the mouths of mere babes. Jonah Hill and Michael Cera (as Seth and Evan, respectively)

obnoxious but closest friends.

— Dupuis

Hot Fuzz

The team behind “Shaun of the Dead” have struck again with “Hot Fuzz.” This piece of action movie pastiche is pure enjoyment. Unlike dreadful parodies of the “Scary Movie” and recent “Meet the Spartans” genre, “Hot Fuzz” is actually entertaining. The key lies in the multi-dimensional comedy thanks to writer and director Edgar Wright and spot-on performances by Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

— Macdonald



Superbad

fall into and out of disastrously hilarious dilemmas, all comically scored to an excellent funk soundtrack provided by Lyle Workman and Bootsy Collins. But what separates “Superbad” from other teen comedies of this nature (see 2004’s semi-comparable “Napoleon Dynamite”) is that its humor and plot don’t rely solely on strange situational comedy. “Superbad” shows you your middle school yearbook and sacktaps you all at once, and you finish the movie feeling as though you’ve spent an hour or two with your most

approach to life. Along the way she gets a much needed dose of reality and learns more about herself and others in the process. The film’s twist on the classic Disney movie using elements from musical, animated, comedy, and live-action fantasy films makes it refreshing and light. A surprising star turn by Amy Adams, who plays Giselle, also elevates the movie from its fantastical story.

— Cole

300

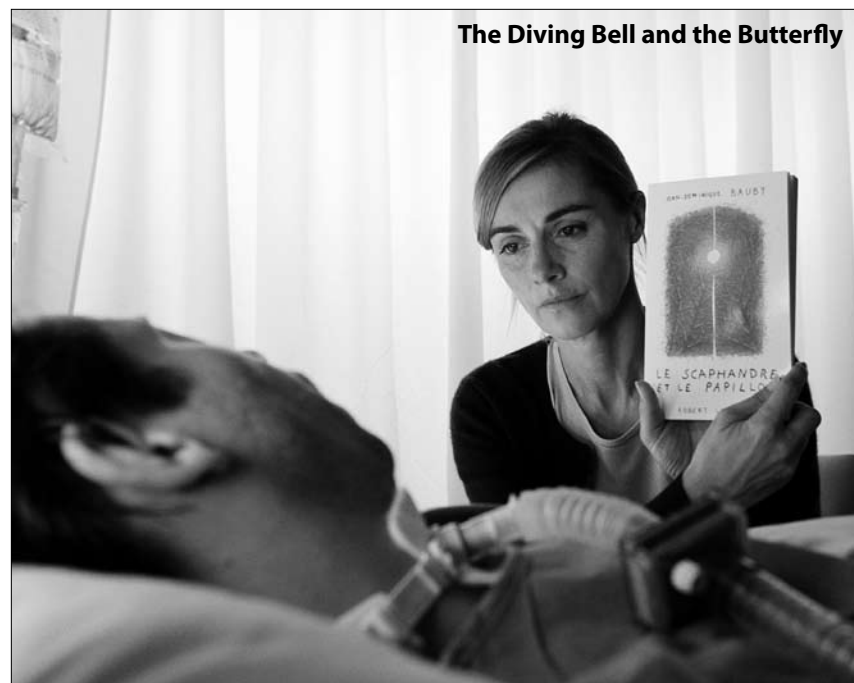
Three hundred half-naked Chuck Norrises fight off a million Persian warriors in a glorious bloodbath fueled by gratuitous nudity and absurdly dramatic speeches. There is no acting. There is no character development. There is only violence, softcore pornography, and more testosterone than you would find in Roger Clemens’ bloodstream.

— Wang

Transformers

“Transformers” delivers a brutal combination of face-shattering visuals, infantile dialogue and a stellar concept (robots + cars + explosives) to provide a direct and unsurprisingly watchable film. Director Michael Bay taps into a simple but brilliant formula: if one explosion is good, and two are better, then two and a half solid hours of destruction ending in the throwing of a flaming bus is probably best.

— Wang



The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

► continued from page 21

Oct. 1: Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75 sends an e-mail to MIT students saying that they must take full responsibility for their actions even while celebrating traditions such as hacking. The e-mail was sent in preparation for the release of a set of hacking guidelines created with input from student representatives.

Oct. 2: President Susan Hockfield holds the State of the Institute forum; the last forum was held in 2004.

Oct. 2: Two MIT alumni — Saul T. Griffith PhD ’04 and Yoky Matsuoka PhD ’98 — were awarded “genius grants” by the MacArthur Foundation and will receive a stipend of \$500,000 over the course of five years, *The Tech* reports.

Oct. 5: The construction of the new Green Center for Physics and related renovations of Buildings 2, 4, 6, and 8 are complete. The project, known as PDSI, was announced in 2002.

Oct. 9: David H. Koch ’62, prostate cancer survivor, donates \$100 million to MIT. Half the money will go toward construction of a \$240 million cancer research center, and half will pay for research.

Oct. 9: The Graduate Student Council begins a series of dining events for graduate students known as Two Dollar Tuesdays; 125 students attended the first event.

Oct. 11: Hotel@MIT is sold to HEI Cambridge LLC for \$63.2 million. The name of the hotel is now Le Meridien Cambridge.

Oct. 12: Thirty more individuals at MIT were sent pre-litigation settlement letters in September 2007 after allegedly illegally downloading copyrighted music, *The Tech* reports.

Oct. 16: Former MIT economics professor Eric S. Maskin and former graduate student Mario R. Capecchi were among the recipients of the Nobel Prizes in Economics and Medicine this year, respectively, *The Tech* reports.

Oct. 19: MIT announces that Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will retire at the end of the academic year. Benedict has served as MIT’s first student life dean since 2000.

Oct. 19: One day before the 43rd annual Head of the Charles Regatta, MIT holds its first annual Head of the Zesiger Cardboard Boat Regatta. The boat Ship Happens — built and manned by Rebecca K. Oman ’08, Chensi Ouyang ’08, and Ellann Cohen ’08 — is the only vessel to survive at the end of the day.

Oct. 22: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission starts a special inspection of the MIT research reactor after receiving a report that a reactor operator was exposed to an unusually high dose of radiation. After investigating from October to November, the NRC cites the lab for violating two minor safety regulations.

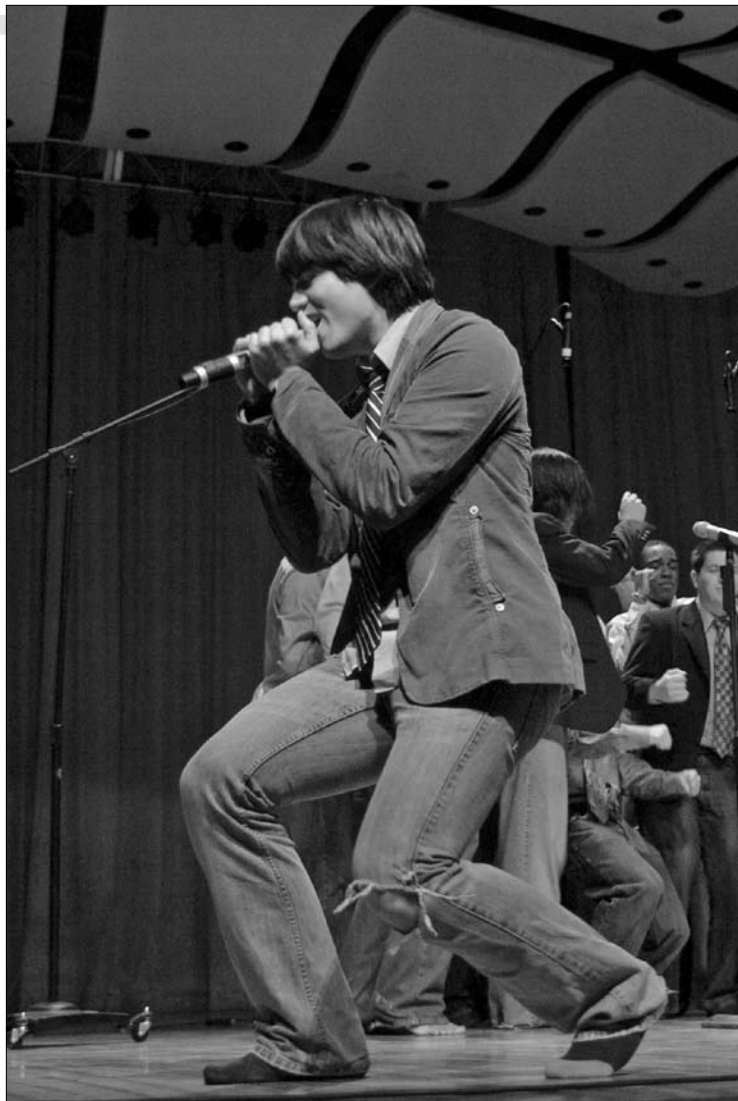
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(clockwise from above)
Musical Theatre Guild, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,"
 April 27–29, May 3–5 —Eric D. Schmiedl
MIT Symphony Orchestra, March 16 —Omari Stephens
Dance Troupe fall concert,
 Dec. 7–9 —Martha Angela Wilcox
The Logarithms, Dec. 14 —Andrea Robles
Resonance, Nov. 17 —Martha Angela Wilcox
Festival Jazz Ensemble, Nov. 17 —Omari Stephens
Dramashop, "Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom," Feb. 8–10, 15–17 —William Yee



Through the Lens
**THE
 ARTS
 AT MIT**



Discovering Tradition, Creating Culture, and Finding Home

By Paul Baranay

Even before arriving on campus for Orientation, I knew that MIT was literally steeped in tradition. Whether I was listening to upperclassmen tell stories during Campus Preview Weekend, perusing blog entries on the Admissions Web site, or simply reading about MIT in the panoply of books and magazines that happened to mention the "Tute, every reference to our little corner of Cambridge was decidedly positive.

Most of the emphasis was put on the amazing research opportunities, the incredibly brilliant and creative and passionate and [insert-adjective-here] students who went to MIT, and the interesting hacks that fascinated people across campus. Little or no mention was made of the problem sets, the tests, the late-night study sessions that occasionally turned into all-nighters — and to be honest, that was probably for the best. Because even though I was told of IHTFP's many definitions, I don't think anyone could have adequately explained what that all-purpose acronym would come to mean to me over the next four months,

let alone the next four years.

I think my perspective started to shift when I walked into 10-250 for my first 18.02 lecture and was promptly handed my first MIT problem set. They expected me to do work here? "Okay," thought my froshling self, "I can handle work." After all, I had gotten through high school without too much trouble — how much harder could college be? Then the exact same thing happened in each of my other three classes. Not as easy as high school, after all.

That is just one example of the many realizations, both minor and major, that I accumulated throughout my first days and weeks at MIT. In the past five months, I have experienced not just the smaller, private dramas that make up our daily lives, but also the larger story of what it means for all of us to learn and live at this place we like to call the Institute.

While in many ways my expectations for my first semester at MIT were

not only met but exceeded, I nonetheless discovered that not everything here is perfect — that the version of MIT so highly exalted in hacker lore and glossy admissions brochures is not necessarily equivalent to the MIT of daily life. Sometimes, sodium drops don't go as planned; airport employees panic and confuse LEDs with bombs; ice cream stores fail to pay their taxes. Administrators fail to involve students on campus-changing decisions, while faculty members allow themselves to become divided. Mistakes are made; apologies and corrections are not always offered, even when they should be.

And that begs the question: why not? I do not believe I am alone in saying that, over the past semester, MIT's administration has lost the trust of much of the student body. Across campus, students have made it manifestly clear that they remain unsatisfied with the way the administration reacted to Star A. Simpson's incident at Logan

Airport. At the same time, skepticism and confusion regarding the recently announced plans for the new Ashdown House continue to grow unabated. As we move into a new semester and a new year, these issues will not simply disappear — if anything, they seem likely to grow even more important.

And yet, in spite of the negativity that has too frequently engulfed campus over the past few months, I nonetheless find myself calling this place home. Now I think I know why the literature, the admissions blogs, and even the stories told by upperclassmen can't fully capture the MIT experience: because the definition of what it means to be an MIT student is constantly shifting. Despite our bedrock of shared tradition, MIT's culture is incredibly fluid and dynamic, as each class of students subtly yet irrevocably helps to change and influence the Institute for generations to come.

Now, in less than three months, another class of anxious, excited, relatively innocent freshmen will be admitted to MIT. As we start to make preparations for yet another Campus Preview Weekend, I can't help but wonder: what stories will we tell?

In the past five months, I have experienced the larger story of what it means for all of us to live and learn at MIT.

Fave Movie? Best Party? *The Tech* Asks...

Tech staff Andrea Robles '10 and Monica Kahn '10 went around the Institute last week asking people for their thoughts about 2007. Here are some of the answers.

Alan M. Benson G

Most overplayed song of 2007? "I have to say 'My Humps' by the Black Eyed Peas."

Favorite 2007 MIT party? "The Graduate Student Council's ski trip. Grad students are pretty boring, but once you get them up on a mountain ..."

Favorite local restaurant? "That burger joint in Harvard Square — Mr. Bartley's."

Who you'll miss most? "I'm going to miss Benazir Bhutto."

TV show currently aching for? "Heroes — I really do miss it."

Sara K. Sheehan '10

Favorite 2007 movie? "Enchanted! My sister dragged me to see it, but I loved it!"

Most overplayed song of 2007? "The umbrella song [by Rihanna]."

TV show currently aching for? "I kind of have a thing for 'Grey's Anatomy.'"

Jeffrey F. Disko '10

Favorite 2007 movie? "Shoot 'Em Up,' definitely."

Favorite 2007 MIT party? "Ooh,

we have good ones?"

Favorite local restaurant? "Pizzeria Regina is pretty good."

Best tabloid story of 2007? "There were some UFO sightings."

Who you'll miss most? "There was a maintenance guy who quit. I sometimes talked to him."

Cynthia A. Bouldrick '11

Favorite 2007 movie? "Probably 'Shrek the Third.'"

Most overplayed song of 2007? "Crank That (Soulja Boy)." It's fun to dance to, but I got sick of hearing it on the radio."

Favorite local restaurant? "IHOP!"

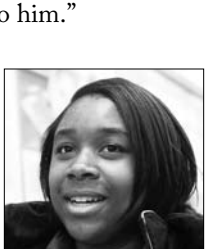
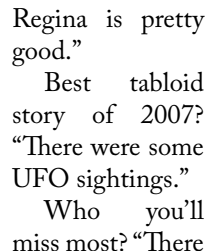
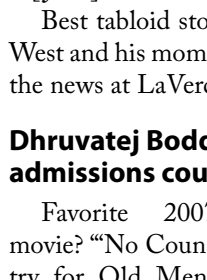
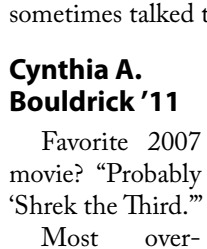
Dumbledore is gay. Thoughts? "It was kind of funny to me. I didn't know if [JKR] was serious."

Best tabloid story of 2007? "Kanye West and his mom — when I saw it on the news at LaVerde's, I just stopped."

Dhruvatej Boddupalli '07, admissions counselor

Favorite 2007 movie? "No Country for Old Men. You should watch it."

Most overplayed song of 2007? "Buy U A Drank' [by T-Pain]. It's a terrible song and they play it all the time."



Favorite local restaurant? "Excelsior. It's in Boston. It's delicious."

Dumbledore is gay. Thoughts? "I can see that."

TV show currently aching for? "The Wire," hands down. It's on, it's not affected by the strike, but I still have to wait until Sunday. It's the best TV show ever made."

Abigail E. Connick '09

Favorite 2007 book? "*I Am America (And So Can You!)* by Stephen Colbert."

Favorite 2007 MIT party? "DTYD on Burton Third."

Favorite local restaurant? "Trident on Newbury St."

Best tabloid story of 2007? "The entire Britney Spears thing — after the VMAs, that's when it got good. Or bad."

TV show currently aching for? "Oh, 'Gossip Girl!'"

Professor David A. Vogan '76

Favorite 2007 movie? "I enjoyed 'The Golden Compass.'"

Favorite local restaurant? "Helmond's, the Afghan place over by the Galleria."

Dumbledore is gay. Thoughts? "I'm afraid I'm indifferent."

TV show currently aching for? "24! It's so wonderfully implausible. It's fun to see so many people resurrected from the dead week after week."

Katherine A. McCusker '10



Favorite 2007 book? "*Eat Pray Love.*"

Move overplayed song of 2007? "Hey There Delilah' [by the Plain White T's]."

Favorite 2007 MIT party? "Off the Books, at Zeta Psi."

Laura A. Jacox '08

Favorite 2007 movie? "Juno."

Most overplayed song of 2007? "Apologize' [by Timbaland feat. One Republic]. They're always playing it at the Z Center."

Favorite 2007 MIT party? "Braveheart on Fifth West at East Campus."

Dumbledore is gay. Thoughts? "I don't really care. I thought he was a good headmaster. More power to him."

Best tabloid story of 2007? "I'd say Britney Spears attacking a car with an umbrella. I'd say that tops her shaving her head."

Joel P. Wagner G

Favorite 2007 album? "Eric Hutchinson's *Sounds Like This.*"

Most overplayed song of 2007? "Fergalicious."

Favorite local restaurant? "Cambridge Brewing Co."



Profiles in Dedication: Athletes at MIT

By Shreyes Seshasai

To most of the world looking in, MIT is about its research. To most of its students, MIT is about the education. But for a select few, nothing gets them as excited as the athletics. The hard work and dedication of many talented student-athletes have created a strong presence for MIT in the collegiate athletic community, and their performance has helped shape a legacy that will persist beyond their graduation. These are a few of their stories.

Michael R. Allshouse '08 — Soccer

Defender and co-captain Michael R. Allshouse '08 capped his final season on the MIT men's soccer team by being named to the 2007 ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Second Team, awarded by the College Sports Information Directory of America (CoSIDA).

Allshouse helped MIT reach a 9-5-2 record, including strong conference wins over Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Babson College. The latter victory was one of the most memorable moments of the season for Allshouse and the team.

"On the road we fought them all game long and won in overtime 1-0," Allshouse said. "It really showed how far we had come since last year when we lost to them twice 5-0."

The victory helped give confidence to a team that was previous winless against opponents in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, and turned out to be the second win of a five-game unbeaten streak to conclude the regular season.

This season was also interesting as it marked the first year for head coach Milton Gooding, who took over for longtime coach Walter A. Alessi. Gooding brings a tradition of winning to MIT, although as Allshouse explained, "there were times when things got interesting. Coach was trying to figure out how MIT worked and we

tried to figure out how he worked."

In his four years with the team, Allshouse developed greatly as a player, which he attributes to both confidence in himself and trust in his teammates. Playing with many of the same teammates for three years, Allshouse was confident his teammates would do well in their roles, and "that let me focus on what I had to do," he said.

Allshouse was also one of the 13 members of the team selected to the 2007 NEWMAC Fall Academic All-Conference Team.

Craig M. Edwards '08 — Swimming

Craig M. Edwards '08 once again performed exceptionally at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Swimming and Diving Championships last spring, finishing fourth in his two best events, the 100-yard backstroke and the 200-yard backstroke. His performance matched his goal coming into the season, which was to make it back to nationals and perform as well as he had done in the past. Edwards finished fourth in the same two events his freshman year.

Edwards came into his final season on the MIT men's swimming and diving team with high expectations, and the talent of the incoming freshman class helped strengthen those feelings.

Edwards led a contingent of four Engineers to the NCAA Championships last spring but was in a unique position as the only veteran of the group. Joining Edwards were three freshmen — Rastislav Racz '10, Jeffrey Y. Zhou '10, and Luke R. Cummings '10. "It was amazing to witness both the skill and potential of our freshmen," Edwards said.

Edwards's head coach Dawn B. Gerken was proud of his performance at nationals, but his All-American finish was not the only impressive result of the championships. "More impor-

tant, he's been a role model for the three freshmen," said Gerken at nationals. "I can't say enough about how important his presence has been."

Edwards also anchored the team in both the 200-yard and 400-yard medley relays, where their strong performances propelled MIT to an 11th place finish in the NCAA Championships.



Brian Hemond—The Tech

Doria M. Holbrook '08 against Wellesley College, Nov. 14.

Edward's biggest challenge last year was mentally and physically not knowing how he would perform after being away for the previous season. "I didn't know what sort of shape I'd be in by championships, or if I'd be able to perform as well as I had in the past," Edwards said.

This challenge helped drive Edwards to bring himself back into fighting shape for national competition. A self-described fierce competitor, Edwards hates to lose. His success also comes from his supportive coaches,

without whom all his success would have been very hard if not impossible to come by, he said.

Doria M. Holbrook '08 — Diving

Doria M. Holbrook '08 continued to impress this season as one of the nation's premier divers, winning the NCAA Division III three-meter diving championship for the second time. Holbrook added to that result with a second place finish in the one-meter diving competition, elevating MIT to 20th place in the NCAA Championships.

Holbrook was named to the CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American Second Team, adding on to a slew of awards she won this season including NEWMAC Diver of the Year. Her performance at the NEWMAC Championship was inspiring, as not only did she shatter Institute records in both the one- and three-meter competitions, she also set new NEWMAC records in both those events.

While winning the national championship is not new territory for Holbrook, the scenario was a little different this time around. Imagine going to practice everyday and training alongside your closest competition.

For Doria M. Holbrook '08, this scenario was a reality. Last season, the Tufts diving team, including Kendall Swett who narrowly edged Holbrook for the three-meter diving crown at the 2006 NCAA Championships, began practicing at MIT, sharing both the same pool and the same coach.

"It was very hard at first, it kind of felt like someone was on my turf," Holbrook said. But the tension quickly gave way, as the two helped each other become stronger competitors and

see *Profiles* on page 34 ▶▶

Pistol Wins Second National Title in Three Years

By Travis Johnson

The MIT pistol team captured their second national championship in three years by beating the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Academies, and other military and civilian schools in a three-day competition held in March 2007 at West Point.

The final standings in the open division of the National Rifle Association Intercollegiate Championships, which includes both male and female competitors, were MIT (6,372), Army (6,365), and Navy (6,322). MIT's top individual performers were co-captains Daipan Lee '07, who placed third overall, and Diana Nee '07, who placed third among women.

MIT students do so well in pistol because "they are focused, disciplined, detail-orientated, and exceptionally competitive," Head Coach Will Hart Jr. said in an e-mail in March. Nee concurred and said in an e-mail, "We are used to

exercising concentrated focus and self-discipline, which are both really important qualities to be a good shooter."

Teamwork is another of the Engineers' advantages. "The MIT pistol team is always, by far, the most tightly-knit team at nationals," Nee said. The team members say this cohesiveness gives them a feeling of calm, knowing that they have the support of their teammates both competitively and emotionally.

Hart plays a big role transforming MIT students, many of whom have no previous shooting experience, into nationally-competitive athletes. Both Lee and Nee came to MIT without any pistol experience and became national medal winners by their senior year. Hart, last year's National Rifle Association Distinguished College Coach, says he actually prefers shooters with no experience because they have no bad habits to break.

The national competition itself is a

marathon designed to measure as precisely as possible the shooting ability of the teams involved. Teams compete in three different events, testing their ability to shoot different types of pistols with different amounts of time to aim. For example, there is a rapid-fire .22-caliber event where shooters have to make five shots in 10 seconds and an air pistol event where shooters have 75 minutes to shoot 40 shots.

After the free pistol and the standard pistol events, Navy was ahead by one point 4,141-4,140. In the final event, air pistol, Lee, Nee, Edward S. Huo '08, and Fuzhou Hu '09 averaged 558 out of 600, good for the top team score in the event and enough to push MIT ahead of Army by seven for the overall victory.

Despite losing Nee, Lee, and another top shooter, P. Raja Palaniappan '08, after the season, Hart said that another national championship in 2008 is not out of the question. "My philosophy is

one shot at a time, one match at a time. But, the best way to get MIT students to do something is to tell them it can't be done, so we'll see," he said.

Lee and Nee ended the season with a slew of awards to add on to the medals they received during their past years on the team. Nee was selected to the All-American First Team for standard, air, and sport pistol. Lee too was selected to the First Team for free and standard pistol, and the Second Team for air pistol. Rounding out the team's Institute record for All-American selections were Huo in standard pistol (Second Team), YunJa Chen '07 in sport pistol (Second Team), and Hu '09 in standard pistol (First Team).

The seniors also ended the season with their NRA membership card that they are required to buy to participate in the tournament. It's a running joke on the team that they are some of the few card-carrying members of the NRA in Cambridge.

Women's Volleyball Reaches NCAA Sweet 16

By Caroline Huang

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is widely accepted as a scholastic superpower, producing some of the world's greatest mathematicians and scientists. Unsurprisingly, its athletic program — though distinguished in its own right — has consistently been an afterthought in a discussion of MIT's virtues.

As of late, however, MIT can add "perennial volleyball force" to both its academic and athletic résumés. Both the men's and women's programs have shared success in the classroom and on the court, and nowhere was it more evident than in Rockwell Cage during the last days of the women's volleyball season ... except perhaps during its 30-match win streak and five tournament titles.

NCAA tournament

For the second year in a row, Rockwell Cage shook with the crowd's thunderous support en route to MIT's appearance in the Sweet 16 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Volleyball Tournament. Top-seeded Tech fell to No. 3 Amherst College in four games — 30-25, 30-16, 24-30, 30-23 — in the final of the New England Regional on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007.

Beginning with a straightforward 3-0 win against overmatched Maine Maritime Academy on Thursday and concluding with a tight 3-1 loss to Amherst College on Saturday, the volleyball team had its fans riveted throughout its three matches. MIT



David M. Templeton—The Tech

MIT women's volleyball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Nov. 2.

concluded its remarkable season with a 36-3 mark, the second-best season in team history. (Only the 1983 team posted a better record, finishing 41-2.)

Just like last year, Tech received hearty support from the fans, especially the loyal bunch who painted their bodies to spell out "B-E-A-V-E-R," "T-E-C-H," and "G-O M-I-T V-B." The spandex-clad and paint-decorated fans led the audience in cheers through megaphones during every timeout.

Tech cruised to a straight-set victory over eighth-seeded Maine Maritime Academy by a score of 30-13, 30-6, 30-14. In a match that was never close, the Engineers decimated the Mariners with a combination of service aces and overpowering hitting (four players had

hitting percentages higher than .400).

In a grudge match versus Wellesley College — which beat MIT in the NEWMAC Volleyball Championship Finals, costing Tech an automatic bid to the NCAA regionals — the Engineers prevailed in a turbulent five-game affair 34-32, 30-25, 25-30, 23-30, 15-13. After squeaking out the first game on a well-placed Amanda J. Morris '08 hit, Tech relied on the serving of Lindsay E. Hunting '09 to win the second game.

Wellesley established control of the third game at the start and never relinquished the lead, cutting the deficit to 2-1. The fourth game featured a close start and several fruitless MIT attempts to overtake the Blue: four times the Engineers drew within two points,

and four times Wellesley escaped with the lead intact. When the Blue went on a well-timed scoring run to grab 10 of the last 15 points, it looked like the Engineers' momentum had slipped away for good.

Luckily, Tech picked an opportune time to jump ahead early, recording a 4-0 lead. Unluckily, a burst of sloppy play and timely Wellesley strikes brought the score to a 12-12 deadlock, placing both teams three points away from the regional final.

Barden E. Cleeland '10 and Rose Zhong '08 racked up the next two points for the Engineers, putting them a point away from victory. After a Wellesley kill brought the score to 14-13, Zhong sealed the deal with a kill.

The regional final against third-seeded Amherst College marked the end of MIT's run, as Tech narrowly missed a trip to the Elite Eight by falling 30-25, 30-16, 24-30, 30-23. The story of the match was initially close games, blown open by large scoring runs and marked by failed attempts at catching the leading team.

It was a bittersweet loss for the Engineers: a season-ending loss to a team they had beaten in the second round of the NCAA regionals last year, tempered with the second-best record in program history.

Individual awards

Beyond their NCAA success, the Engineers also earned numerous individual accolades. A smattering of these is listed below.

see *Volleyball* on page 33 ►►

Women's Tennis Earns Highest Ever National Ranking

By Mariah N. Hoover and Karina N. Pikhart

Ask anybody on the MIT women's tennis team about their fall 2007 season, and if they don't brag to you about national rankings and academic honors, you can smile because you know they are being modest.

The Lady Engineers finished their spring 2007 season ranked 30th in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Team Rankings, a status that Head Coach Carol Matsuzaki proudly called "no small thing." Come fall though, the team proved it could perform at an even higher level. Finishing 7-2 in conference play and 8-3 overall, MIT closed the fall season ranked 23rd in the nation and regionally ranked sixth.

Individual performances this fall were also notable. Mariah N. Hoover '08 was named to both singles and doubles NEWMAC All-Conference Team, making her the first athlete in MIT tennis history to accomplish this in each of her four years. Leslie A. Hansen '10 finished her strong season ranked fourth regionally, decorated as the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference's Women's Tennis Athlete of the Year. Hansen and doubles partner Hoover were also rec-

ognized as the fourth ranked doubles team in the region.

The athletes of the MIT women's team also performed well in the classroom. In August, the ITA announced that for the first time in MIT history, the entire roster of 11 women received scholar-athlete accolades. Only two schools in the country received a greater number of scholar-athlete honors.

Still, most athletes on the women's tennis team will tell you that beyond exceptional performances, rankings, and awards, the team is defined above all by the closeness of its members. Through cheering for each other, celebrating each other's birthdays, and weekend activities such as candlepin bowling, the team continued to grow closer and create lasting memories that undoubtedly had a positive effect on their incredible season.

Heading into the 2008 spring season, the women's tennis team has its sights set on qualifying for the NCAA Championships as a team. Helping the players reach that goal will be a spring break trip to California where they will play MIT's historic rival, the California Institute of Technology, in a battle of the Engineers.

Mariah N. Hoover '08 and Karina N. Pikhart '09 are co-captains of the women's tennis team.

Men's Track and Field Races to Seventh Straight NEWMAC Title

By Fletcher A. Brooks

The MIT men's track and field team went undefeated in the winter 2007 indoor season, securing wins over Division III powers such as Williams College and Tufts University. The season was highlighted by great team results, along with impressive individual performances by the much-improved sophomore class and dominating freshman class, culminating in a third place finish in the New England Division III Championship.

The only blemish of the Engineer's season came with a loss against the alumni in the annual exhibition meet in January. With one of the largest margins of victory since the inception of the meet in 1974, the alumni won 11 of the 14 events on their way to a victory for the second straight year. The foursome of Zachary J. Traina '05, David A. Blau '06, Thaddeus J. Wozniak '06, and Richard F. Rajter '03 set the meet record in winning the 4x200-meter relay for the alumni. The 22.78-second freshman record of Stephen A. Morton '10 in the 200-meter dash was the highlight of the meet for the varsity team even though Morton had to settle for second place behind Traina.

Victories over Bates College and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy right-

ed the ship after the alumni annihilation, setting up a victory over Williams College in the quad meet with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Westfield State College. In a battle between Williams College's quality (winning 11 events) and MIT's depth, the depth won out. In the final field event, MIT took five of the top eight triple jumpers to close out the meet. For those alumni who can remember the noise level of the battles against Tufts in the early to mid '80s, this one was very similar. Overall, 31 season bests were set with 29 different athletes contributing to the scoring.

MIT finished their regular season undefeated with an amazing victory over favored Tufts at Bowdoin College's track, defeating Springfield College, Bowdoin College, and Colby College in the process as well. Morton set a new freshman record in the triple jump (45'4¼") as the horizontal jumpers put the meet away for the second week in a row. Going into the New England Division III Championship in mid February, MIT was seeded fourth behind Williams, Tufts, and Springfield. Nine personal bests later, the Engineers succeeded in improving upon their seed with a third

see *Track and Field* on page 31 ►►

Baseball

Record ('07): 18-16
 Head Coach: Andrew Barlow
 NEWMAC Sportsmanship Award
 3rd place, NEWMAC

Men's Basketball

Record ('06-'07): 14-13
 Head Coach: Larry Anderson
 5th place, NEWMAC

Women's Basketball

Record ('06-'07): 4-20
 Head Coach: Patricia O'Brien
 9th place, NEWMAC

Men's Heavyweight Crew

'06-'07 Season
 Head Coach: Anthony E. Kilbridge
 2nd place, Petite Final, IRA² National
 Championship

Men's Lightweight Crew

'06-'07 Season
 Head Coach: Edward D. Benford
 2nd place, IRA National Championship

Women's Openweight Crew

'06-'07 Season
 Head Coach: Alison Derrick
 10 Collegiate Rowing Coaches
 Association Scholar-Athletes

Women's Lightweight Crew

'06-'07 Season
 Head Coach: Irene Jenkins
 1st place, Petite Final, IRA National
 Championship

Men's Cross Country

'07 Season
 Head Coach: Halston W. Taylor
 1st place, NEWMAC Championships
 6th place, NCAA Division III New
 England Regional

Women's Cross Country

'07 Season
 Head Coach: Halston W. Taylor
 1st place, NEWMAC Championships
 7th place, NCAA Division III New
 England Regionals

Men's Fencing

Record ('06-'07): 10-10
 Head Coach: Jaroslav Koniusz
 3rd place, New England Championship
 10th place, IFC³ Championship

Women's Fencing

Record ('06-'07): 12-11
 Head Coach: Jaroslav Koniusz
 2nd place, New England Championship
 10th place, IFC Championship

Field Hockey

Record ('07): 4-13
 Head Coach: Cheryl Silvia
 8th place, NEWMAC

Football

Record ('07): 2-7
 Head Coach: Dwight E. Smith
 6th place, Boyd Division, New England
 Football Conference

Men's Golf

Fall '07 Season:
 Head Coach: Bruce Chalas
 14th, ECAC⁴ Division III
 Championship

Women's Track and Field Claims Its First Ever NEWMAC Championship

By Fletcher A. Brooks

The 2007 spring season was arguably the strongest ever for the women's track and field program, as the team went undefeated during the indoor season and placed fifth at the New England Division III Indoor Track and Field Championship, a huge jump from the previous year's 13th. Much of this improvement came because of a strong freshman class, including Maria J. Monks '10, who shattered the Institute record in the 5K run with a time of 17:21.62.

The outdoor season was highlighted by the program's first New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championship title in April, having defeated nine-time defending champion Wheaton College.

Competing the following weekend at the New England Division III

Championship at Springfield College, the Engineers accomplished another first for the program with a second place finish, setting a handful of Institute records along the way.

Amy R. Magnuson '10 set Institute records in the long jump (with a distance of 17'9.5") and in the 100-meter hurdles (14.31 seconds). Andrea Staid '07 and Andrea E. Bradshaw '09 both bested the 800-meter Institute record with runs of 2:19.20 and 2:19.51, respectively. Staid and Bradshaw then joined Rachel M. Niehuus '07 and Adrienne M. Bolger '09 to win the 4x800-meter relay with an Institute record 9:23.3.

Following the second place finish in Springfield, a handful of women traveled to Dartmouth College for the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletics Association Championship. There the team placed 10th

among the New England Division I, II, and III colleges, the highest finish ever for the program. Magnuson again set a school record with a long jump of 18'1", placing fourth but falling just short of the NCAA provisional cut. Aline M. Thomas '08 also set an Institute record in the hammer with a mark of 163'6", good enough for fourth place in the event.

Rounding out a great year, three women traveled to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the NCAA National Championship meet. Magnuson, Thomas, and Chi-Fong Wang '07 all performed well and placed higher than their seeds. Magnuson capped off her record-setting freshman year with a second place finish in the 100-meter hurdles, earning her All-American honors.

Fletcher A. Brooks is the head coach of the women's track and field team.

Women's Cross Country Finishes Seventh in New England Regional

By Halston W. Taylor

In the 2007 fall season, the women's cross country team won the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championship, scoring 50 points to runner-up Wheaton College (72). Kathryn A. Gordon '11 received NEWMAC Rookie of the Year honors as Maria J. Monks '10 led the way with a fourth place finish. Close behind were teammates Elizabeth M. Finn '09 (5th), Jennifer A. Doyle '09 (12th), Gordon (14th), and

Adrienne M. Bolger '09 (15th). The win marked the third time that both the men's and women's cross country teams took the NEWMAC title in the same year.

At the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletics Association Championship, the women finished in seventh place overall, the highest finish for either the men's or women's programs ever.

After an impressive season, the women unfortunately seemed to be suffering from fatigue at the NCAA

Division III Regional Championship, finishing a disappointing seventh out of 47 teams. The team missed qualifying for the national championship by two spots.

Individually, Finn qualified for NCAA Division III Championships by finishing 20th overall in the 6,000-meter race with a time of 22:22. She became the fourth runner in team history to do so and ended up finishing 100th overall in the competition.

Halston W. Taylor is the head coach of the women's cross country team.

Sailing Finishes Fall as No. 11 in U.S.

By Matthew Lindblad

The MIT sailing team saw great results during the 2007 fall season, including overall wins at the Smith Trophy and the Erwin Schell Trophy (for the first time in 27 years). The coed team also had top finishes at the Captain Hurst Bowl in New Hampshire and the Crews Regatta at MIT. To finish out the fall season, the team placed 11th at the Atlantic Coast Championship at Eckerd College in Florida.

The coed team entered the season as the 10th ranked team in the country. Despite being ranked as high as eighth at one point, they ended the fall season ranked 11th in the country and sixth in the New England Conference.

Senior captains John M. "Jack" Field '08 and Julie C. Arsenault '08 were also named New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association Sailors of the Week for the week of Oct. 28, after leading the Engineers to an overall win at the Erwin Schell Trophy.

The women's sailing team won the A-division at the Women's Man-Labs Trophy to begin the season. Unfortunately it finished one spot away at both the Stu Nelson Trophy and Victorian Coffie Urn Trophy from qualifying for

the Women's Atlantic Coast Championships. The team did finish ranked 10th in New England, while also receiving votes in the top 15 national poll.

Women's captain Elizabeth L. Palmer '07, along with co-captains Field and Arsenault, did great throughout the season to ensure new sailors were learning and having fun. Overall, the team added 17 new sailors in the fall, bringing the official team size up to 37.

The team is looking forward to the upcoming spring season, featuring a revised "tournament style" national championship format new to the Intercollegiate Sailing Association. During the preceding winter months, the team still takes part in land based fitness and classroom instruction, and it will train again at the U.S. Naval Academy for a



Perry Hung—The Tech

Sailing, George Warren Smith Trophy, Sept. 29-30.

week in March.

Matthew Lindblad is one of the head coaches of the sailing team.

Men's Volleyball Takes NECVA New England Division Title

By Paul Dill

The varsity men's volleyball 2007 season turned out to be the best campaign in program history. The team finished with a 27-6 overall record and a No. 11 ranking in the Division III American Volleyball Coaches Association's Coaches Poll. The team also went undefeated in the North East Collegiate Volleyball Association's

New England Division, winning the division title for the first time. This earned the team its third straight trip to the post season, making its way through to the quarterfinals of the NECVA Championship tournament.

During the season, the Engineers finished first in the MIT Invitational Tournament, third in the Endicott Invitational Tournament, and put together a 17-match win streak. Many

individuals garnered awards during the season as well. Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 and Philip M. Rogoz '10 were named to the NECVA New England All-Division First Team, while Ryan G. Dean '08 and T. Scott Pollom '09 were named to the NECVA New England All-Division Second Team.

Pamidimukkala was also named New England Player of the Year, NECVA All-Conference First Team Member, NECVA Player of the Year and Academic All-District First Team. MIT also led the conference with eight NECVA All-Academic team members. In addition, Head Coach Paul Dill was named NECVA New England Division Coach of the Year and NECVA Conference Co-Coach of the Year.

Overall, the men's volleyball program continued to be a program on the rise. After not having a winning season in 11 years, the program has had its three most successful seasons in a row, making it to the post season all three years and reaching its highest national ranking ever.

Paul Dill is the head coach of the men's volleyball team.



William Yee—The Tech

MIT men's volleyball vs. Emmanuel College, Feb. 10.

Freshman Stephen Morton Wins NEWMAC Male Athlete of the Year

► from *Track and Field* on page 29

place finish. Morton raised his triple jump freshman record with a 45'10½" effort on his final jump to earn third place, adding to his second place finish in the 200-meter and fifth place in the long jump. The only victories for Tech came towards the end of the meet in the distance medley relay, made up of Jeremiah R. "Yermie" Cohen '09, Alex G. Rothberg '09, Archimedes C. Stuk '10, and Hemagiri Arumugam '10, and in the 4x800-meter relay, comprised of William S. Phipps '10, Jacob J. Ruzevick '09, Peter J. Mulligan '08, and Matthew F. Bieniosek '09.

Outdoor team wins seventh straight NEWMAC title

Making the transition to the outdoor track proved especially difficult this year, with rain falling what seemed to be every day. For the first time 25 years, MIT was forced to cancel an outdoor meet: the Engineers Cup against RPI and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

MIT won the five-way home meet against Bates, Colby, the University of Southern Maine, and Colby-Sawyer College in April, and finished the regular season at home the following weekend in the annual Spring Invitational. Morton and Anthony D. Teixeira '08 led the way to victory in the first meet, with Morton setting two more freshman records (10.88 seconds in the 100-meter dash and 21.91 seconds in the 200-meter dash). William B. Fedus '10 also earned a freshman

record, taking down the long standing 400-meter mark with a 50.07-second performance, although Morton passed him a week later with a time of 49.02 seconds.

Going into the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championship, MIT trailed Springfield as the favorite despite having a much improved team compared to last year's winning squad. The domination of having nine 5K runners under 16:00 and six under 33:00 in the 10K provided the necessary strength to sweep both events, earning 58 points of the team's total 247. Morton was named NEWMAC Male Athlete of the Year after a nearly perfect meet, winning four events and placing second in another. The Engineers came out victorious for the seventh time in a row, and eighth overall out of the nine championships held since the inception of the conference.

The New England Division III Championship was yet another week where MIT was the underdog, and it would have taken a perfect performance to defeat Springfield and Tufts. MIT faced a deficit early, slowly working itself back into contention by placing second through fifth in the 10K. Gregory D. Tao '08 earned the only victory for MIT by vaulting 14'10", while Morton and Teixeira both scored personal bests in the 110 high hurdles, finishing fifth and sixth respectively.

Although the Engineers were producing great marks across many of the events, the mistake of entering Morton in too many events for the second

week in a row cast a shadow on the overall team performance. Morton tweaked his hamstring at the end of the 100-meter dash, preventing him from triple jumping or running the 200-meter dash, events in which he would have certainly scored well.

The following week, a few MIT athletes made the trip to Dartmouth College for the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletics Association Championship. Omari S. Stephens '08 (also *Tech* associate photo editor) scored in his second straight All New England Championship by vaulting to a personal record of 15'4½", good for third place. Stephen Morton was back to good form, setting a personal best of 46'4" for sixth place in the triple jump. Cohen placed fourth in the 1,500-meter race, continuing his string of personal bests after winning the event at NEWMACs.

In the final week of the season, MIT hosted a Last Chance Qualifier to enable those in the region close to qualifying for the NCAA Championship to have another opportunity. Stephens took advantage of this, clearing a new personal best of 15'7¼" to provisionally qualify for Nationals. Even though he, Morton, and Eric A. Khatchadourian '07 all qualified provisionally, none of them made the selected national field.

With only five graduating seniors and a talented group of incoming freshmen, the MIT men's track and field team should see continued improvement in 2007-08.

Fletcher A. Brooks is the head coach of men's track and field team.

► continued from page 25

- Oct. 22:** The Undergraduate Association creates the "Fresh Fund," a \$10,000 fund that will be used to support new ideas and initiatives.
- Oct. 23:** Wolfe B. Styke '10 is stabbed seven times in his Next House residence early in the morning, allegedly by his ex-girlfriend and Wellesley College junior Anna L. Tang. Tang is charged in Cambridge District Court with home invasion and armed assault with intent to murder. The stabbing prompts a review of housing security policies.
- Oct. 23:** MIT fell from first the 13th in *Washington Monthly's* annual college rankings, which evaluates schools based on service to the country. MIT was ranked first for the last two years.
- Oct. 28:** The Red Sox win the World Series, beating out the Colorado Rockies, 4-3, in Game 4 at Coors Field.
- Oct. 30:** About a dozen students show up in Scheme-themed Halloween costumes to the 6.001 (Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs) lecture. This is the last semester that 6.001 will be offered.
- Oct. 31:** MIT files a lawsuit against Stata Center architect Frank O. Gehry and construction company Skanska USA Building Inc. MIT alleges that Gehry was negligent in the designing the building and that both Gehry and Skanska breached their contractual obligations, citing design and construction failures leading to cracking, poor drainage, leaks, and mold growth.
- Nov. 2:** Alpha Phi Omega's weeklong Unholiest huMan on Campus competition concludes with \$1,261.80 raised for Transition House, an organization that combats domestic violence.
- Nov. 3:** MIT places fourth at the finals of the DARPA Grand Challenge with its autonomous car. The car finished the race alongside five of its competitors; 11 teams out of the original field of 89 competed in the finals.
- Nov. 5:** The Department of Facilities is separated into two divisions: Operations and Security, headed by MIT Police Chief John DiFava, and Capital Projects and Strategic Planning, headed by Richard Amster Jr., formerly of Turner Construction.
- Nov. 6:** The MIT Solar Decathlon team placed 13th out of 20 teams in the Department of Energy competition to build a practical solar home, *The Tech* reports. MIT's entry, a house called "Solar 7," earned top marks for its efficient use of solar energy but lost points in architecture and market viability.
- Nov. 7:** Anna L. Tang, who allegedly stabbed her ex-boyfriend Wolfe B. Styke '10 in October 2007, is ordered held without bail on probable cause in a Cambridge District Court dangerousness hearing.
- Nov. 8:** Approximately 700 people receive flu shots at the MedLinks free flu clinic.
- Nov. 9:** The Committee on Race

Moments You Shouldn't (and Probably Can't) Forget From 2007

By Shreyes Seshasai

For the average sports fan, 2007 was filled with moments that many of us will easily forget. In five years, it'll be difficult to pick out which team won the NBA Championship ("Hmm, it's an odd year ... I'll guess the Spurs") or which team won the Stanley Cup (wait, a team from California?). What will stick out in our minds are moments that we knew right away were special. Ones where teams and athletes rose above and beyond expectations, ones whose effects will be felt for years to come.

These are my most memorable sports moments of 2007.

Colts win Super Bowl XLI

The Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears in what would be Peyton Manning's coronation into football immortality. Finally proving he can win the big game, Manning's MVP performance in the Super Bowl will probably not be remembered as much as his victory in the previous game over the New England Patriots. Coming back from an 18-point deficit, Manning finally beat the Patriots when it mattered most, setting up a match-up between Tony Dungy's Colts and Lovie Smith's Bears, the first two black coaches to lead a team to the Super Bowl. Oh, and who can forget Devin Hester running back the opening kickoff. Too bad Bears fans couldn't celebrate much longer.

Pakistan's cricket coach dies

Bob Woolmer, the cricket legend and coach of the Pakistan national cricket team, was found dead in his hotel room on Sunday, March 18, a day after his team lost to Ireland in one of the most improbable upsets imaginable in the sport. Had the setting been different, perhaps people would have been more inclined to believe that this stressed, elderly man died of a heart attack. But in one of the most crime-filled countries of the world (Jamaica), after disappointing one of the most passionate fan bases in the sport, with speculations of match-fixing surrounding his name, it was too easy for the mind to drift to thoughts of murder.

The Jamaican police stated less than a week later that the case was being treated as a homicide, after postmortem tests suggested he had died of asphyxiation. It took the police three months to clean up their mistakes and officially rule that the death was a result of natural causes. Better late than never though, as it finally allowed the cricket world to move on and celebrate the legacy of Woolmer, as opposed to investigating his untimely death.

Federer beats Nadal at Wimbledon

Tennis is familiar to a particular player dominating the sport for a giv-

en time. In the late '70s it was Björn Borg and Jimmy Connors. Then came John McEnroe, and then Ivan Lendl. If only I were alive to see them. When watching Pete Sampras do the same in the 1990s, I could see how it was Sampras vs. everyone else, and you'd expect Sampras to win every time.

Federer has already reached the level of Sampras, not yet in numbers, but in dominance. His only consistent competition over the past few years has been Rafael Nadal, who has defeated Federer in each of the past three French Opens. Until the 2008 Australian

Open, where they both lost in the semi-finals, either Federer or Nadal had won each of the last 11 Grand Slam titles.

So when the two players met in the 2007 Wimbledon final, there was a lot at stake. Nadal had just beaten Federer in the French Open final, so another win (this time not on clay) would bring the two players even closer. The match did not disappoint, going the distance to the fifth set. Had Nadal not tweaked his knee in the fourth set, perhaps the fifth would have been more contentious, but Federer's victory still reaffirmed his position atop the men's game.

Doping strikes Tour de France

We know doping has been a problem in cycling for some time now, but I didn't think it could get much worse than the 2006 Tour de France. It did.

The day before the 2006 Tour, several of the race favorites, including Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso, were forced to withdraw. The eventual winner, American Floyd Landis, was disqualified this past fall when his positive drug test from during the race was upheld.

I fully expected the riders to get the message in the 2007 Tour, but that was clearly not the case. Allegations and expulsions continued throughout the race, with favorite Alexandre Vinokou-

rov thrown out for being identified as having taken a blood transfusion and Iban Mayo testing positive for Erythropoietin (EPO). Michael Rasmussen,

holding the race lead after a thrilling mountain state victory, was forced to withdraw amid speculations of doping after lying to his team on his whereabouts before the Tour.

It's unfortunate that these incidents detracted from what otherwise was a very exciting Tour. American Levi Leipheimer, originally the central component of Team Discovery Channel, saw his teammate Alberto Contador excel at the mountain stages and take over the yellow jersey in the final week. Coming down to the final time trial, Contador kept his lead and took the Tour victory the following day.

The fact that allegations against Contador soon followed was no surprise. The sport needs to take action to bring the trust back between its athletes and fans. Part of the obligation falls with the riders as well, as they no longer can tolerate their teammates and competitors cheating. Without a culture shift within the sport itself, doping may never go away.

Bonds breaks Aaron's record

In one of the most anticipated moments in baseball, Barry Bonds finally connected on his 756th home run on a breezy summer night in San Francisco, earning the title of Major League Baseball's home run king. Well, "earning" may not be the right word to describe it. As controversy surrounds

Bonds and his alleged use of steroids, the one thing that's clear is public opinion is not in his favor.

Whether that means he doesn't

get into the Hall of Fame (probably), or ends up having the record taken away from him (unlikely), do you even care? The guy put on a show for millions of fans for a long time, and he was exciting to watch. He may have deceived us, he may have cheated, and he may not deserve any of our respect, but he was not alone. Let's just let history decide how much he should be penalized for potentially doing something that potentially many other players did as well.

Michigan loses to Appalachian State

It just so happened that I wore my blue and maize Michigan shirt that Saturday, Sept. 1. Walking through Quincy market, I see two Michigan students sulking. One of them spots my shirt, walks over, and gives me a hug, "I'm sorry, man." To tell you the truth, I didn't even remember the name of the team Michigan was playing. I had considered the season opener against a Division II opponent as more of an exhibition, a good way for the talented duo of Chad Henne and Mike Hart to shake off the rust and for the young defense to get their footing.

The fallout from the loss was tremendous, but nothing compared to what would follow. Michigan's 0-2 start would be just one of the stories that began a crazy college football season. The rotating carousel of teams occupying the top spots would continue to spin right up until Selection Sunday, but at least no one can complain about lack of entertainment (and lack of parity).

Patriots caught taping signals

Spygate, videogate, cheating ... there are many names you can attribute to the actions of Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots during Week 1 of their assault on the 1972 Miami Dolphins. The Patriots were caught videotaping the signals of their opponents during a game, in violation of league rules. How did the league respond? They fined Belichick, fined the team, took away its first round draft pick next year, and destroyed the tapes.

I don't think many people actually believe that the Patriots were using that video material during the game to try to gain an advantage. It was the New York Jets for crying out loud; they

Men's Gymnastics	
Record ('06-'07):	1-5
Head Coach:	Noah Riskin
2nd place, New England Invitational Championship	
5th place, USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championship	

Women's Gymnastics	
Record ('06-'07):	5-14
Head Coach:	Jennifer Miller-McEachern
5th place, ECAC Championship	

Men's Ice Hockey	
Record ('06-'07):	13-6-1
Head Coach:	Mark P. O'Meara
1st place, Conference A East Division, NECHA ⁵	

Women's Ice Hockey	
Record ('06-'07):	5-14
Head Coach:	Danielle Holtschlag
10th place, ECAC East	

Men's Lacrosse	
Record ('07):	7-7
Head Coach:	Walter A. Alessi
5th place, Pilgrim Lacrosse League	

Women's Lacrosse	
Record ('07):	5-7
Head Coach:	Cheryl Silvia
3rd place, NEWMAC	

Pistol	
Record ('06-'07):	5-2-1
Head Coach:	Will Hart Jr.
1st place, NRA Intercollegiate National Championship	

Rifle	
Record ('06-'07):	10-4 (smallbore), 8-3 (air rifle)
Head Coach:	John G. Mulloy
2nd place, Expert Division smallbore, MAC ⁶ Championships	

Sailing	
'06-'07 Season:	
Head Coach:	Matthew Lindblad
9th place, New England Dinghy Championships	

Alpine Skiing	
'07 Season:	
Head Coach:	Todd O. DuMond
6th place, ECSC ⁷ Regional Championship	

Men's Soccer	
Record ('07):	9-5-2
Head Coach:	Milton Gooding
5th place, NEWMAC	

Women's Soccer	
Record ('07):	13-7-0
Head Coach:	Krista M. Fulton
4th place, NEWMAC	

Softball	
Record ('07):	2-24
Head Coach:	Julie Fox
NEWMAC Sportsmanship Award	

Squash	
Record ('06-'07):	2-13
Head Coach:	Orla O'Doherty
Ranked 39th in National	

didn't need it. The real question is how long has this been going on, and has it helped them in the past? Did they use recorded information like this in their previous Super Bowl victories?

The league has also come into question based on its handling of the case, most notably by Philadelphia Eagles supporter Senator Arlen Specter. Upon reviewing the tapes submitted by the Patriots, the league destroyed all of them quickly. If NFL commissioner Roger Godell truly does feel that nothing in the tapes gave the Patriots a distinct competitive advantage, then why not release the tapes? Why not stop the speculation and guessing by the media and show them how silly the tapes really are? It wouldn't hurt the Jets, who have surely changed their signals by now, and it would level the playing field by giving everyone the same amount of information.

Unless, of course, there was something else in the tapes. The last thing first year commissioner Godell would want to decide is how to punish presumably the greatest team in NFL history. And of course, the easiest way to prevent that from happening is to destroy the tapes right away. But no, Godell would never do that. He's trustworthy, right?

Rockies win one game playoff

The Colorado Rockies had a magical run at the end of the 2007 Major League Baseball season, and looking back, it's still hard to fathom what they accomplished. The team finished the regular season on a 13-1 run, just barely enough for a tie with the San Diego Padres for the NL Wild Card spot. The most intriguing part of the story though is how close they came to not making it at all.

The Padres, on a 11-4 run themselves, could have secured the wild card spot in their second to last game of the season. With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Padres closer (and all-time MLB saves leader) Trevor Hoffman gave up an RBI triple to blow the save, and the Padres eventually lost.

Hoffman again blew the save in the bottom of the 13th in the run-off game between the Rockies and Padres. Colorado continued their hot streak by sweeping the Phillies, who themselves had completed an improbable comeback just to reach the postseason, erasing a seven game deficit to the New York Mets in only 17 games. A sweep of Arizona left the Rockies a ridiculous 21-1 heading into the World Series. The only downside: sitting on the sidelines for over a week until the American League had a champion, a wait that probably cooled them off enough for the Red Sox.

The Mitchell report is released

Former Senator George Mitchell released the "Mitchell Report" in December, and chaos over the inclusion of Roger Clemens ensued. While most of the media, and Congress, is worried about the "he said/she said" fight between Clemens and his former trainer Brian McNamee, I'm going to choose not to care. I'd rather see Major League Baseball step up and start doing what the report wants it to do, clean up the game and earn the respect back from the fans. Whether or not Clemens took steroids isn't going to change how clean players are in the game today. Now that we've framed the problem, let's stop worrying about the past.

Men's Lacrosse Loses in New England Semis

By Walter A. Alessi

After a slow 0-3 start, the men's lacrosse team won six of their last nine regular season games (including four

of their last five) to qualify for the Eastern College Athletic Conference New England Tournament.

A decisive 16-4 win in the opening round over Daniel Webster College put the Engineers into the semi-finals against top-seeded Plymouth State University in May. In what some observers called a "classic," the Engineers came out on the short end of a 7-6 double overtime decision. The loss ended their season with a final record of 7-7.

Twelve of the team's 25 players were placed on the Pilgrim Lacrosse League All-Academic Team.

Senior tri-captain goalie Zachary E. Brewer '07 had an outstanding season and was selected as the team's Most Valuable Player. He was chosen as a representative in the senior East-West All Star Game played at Harvard University and helped lead the East All-Stars to victory.

Walter A. Alessi is the head coach of the men's lacrosse team.



William Yee—The Tech

MIT men's lacrosse vs. Norwich University, April 14.

Outlook Positive for 2008

► from *Volleyball* on page 29

Setter Morris led the way, leading the NEWMAC with 1,385 assists and establishing her as one of the most prolific setters in Institute history with 3,597 assists, good for third all-time at MIT. Her awards list goes on forever: NEWMAC Athlete of the Year, New England Women's Volleyball Association Player of the Year award, NEWVA All-New England First Team for the second consecutive year, the American Volleyball Coaches Association New England Player of the Year award, and AVCA New England All-Region honors, among others. And that's before the All-American awards — Morris earned spots on the AVCA All-America Third Team and CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America First Team.

Libero Buchanan also racked up individual decorations, meriting a mention as a CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Second Team member for her defensive efforts. Her season featured a 51-dig performance against Williams College in the semifinals of the MIT Women's Volleyball Invitational, good for the Institute record for digs in a match and the Tournament MVP award. She earned AVCA New England All-Region honors for the second season in a row and added a NEWVA All-New England Second Team mention to her awards pile.

Middle hitter Rowe earned recognition from AVCA and NEWVA as well, as she was named to the NEWVA All-New England Second Team and the AVCA New England All-Region Team.

Zhong finished her senior year —

highlighted by her MIT-record 13 aces in a Sept. 18 match versus Worcester Polytechnic Institute — with spots on NEWMAC Academic All-Conference Team and the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Third Team.

Coach Paul Dill added to the award total with two coaching awards, winning the AVCA Division III New England Coach of the Year and the NEWVA Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

2008 outlook

Next season will mark a transition of sorts, as Buchanan, Morris, and Zhong formed the backbone of this year's team. Tech will miss Buchanan's all-out defensive play and spectacular digs, as well as Morris' stellar sets and Zhong's strong hitting.

"The three seniors ... were instrumental in helping take the program to the next level over the past four seasons and will be very hard to replace. However, the program is designed to keep the expectations the same, no matter what," Dill said. "The solid core of returning players along with a hopefully strong recruiting class will be sure to step up so we can pick up where we left off this season."

The expectations may remain "the same," but there may be more descriptive words for them: ambitious, lofty, and entirely possible. After all, the 2007 team rebounded quite nicely after losing four players to graduation, injury, and the like.

As Coach Dill said: "This is one of the greatest women's teams I have ever coached. The team culture and ability to pursue excellence at such a high level is unparalleled in my time at MIT."

and Diversity has been formed to advance race relations within the community, absorbing the Campus Committee on Race Relations and the MLK Celebrations Committee, *The Tech* reports.

Nov. 14: Alumnus John A. Thain '77 is named chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch.

Nov. 16: President Susan Hockfield is in India to foster collaboration between MIT and India. Her weeklong trip designates her as the first sitting MIT president to go to India.

Nov. 17: Melis N. Anahtar '08 is named a Rhodes Scholar. The scholarship will send Anahtar to Oxford University for two or three years of graduate study.

Nov. 22: Lagos Analysis Corp., a Natick-based company owned by Nigerians, files a lawsuit in Nigeria against the One Laptop Per Child Foundation, claiming OLPC copied its multilingual keyboard technology.

Nov. 28: Alberto Mena '09 and Reid C. Van Lehn '09 are elected president and vice president of the Interfraternity Council for the coming year.

Nov. 28: MIT launches the \$200,000 MIT Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Prize, a national competition aimed at bringing new energy technologies to market.

Dec. 1: Wei-Hsuan "Jessie" Ho '08 is injured by a falling tree limb from the Class of 1950 Willow Tree in front of Baker House. The tree was later cut down.

Dec. 4: Beginning next fall, freshmen placed in Next House during the summer will be able to participate in Residence Exploration and enter the Housing Readjustment Lottery, *The Tech* reports. McCormick Hall was not included in the change.

Dec. 4: A safe was stolen from the Student Life Programs Office over the weekend, prompting the cancellation of checks and a delay in student group reimbursements, *The Tech* reports.

Dec. 6: Building W1, current graduate dormitory Ashdown House, will be completely renovated before reopening as an undergraduate resident in fall 2010, administrators say. The renovated dormitory will not permit smoking or pets; it will have a dining room and a dining program, and the kitchens currently on each floor will be removed.

Dec. 7: Muhammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, will be MIT's 2008 Commencement speaker, *The Tech* reports.

Dec. 10: Tiffany W. Guo '09 and Yi Zhou '09 are elected to be president and executive vice president of the Panhellenic Association for 2008. One goal of the new executive board will be to add a new sorority to five currently existing in Panhel.

Dec. 11: 6.170 (Laboratory in Software Engineering) will no longer be offered in any subsequent semesters, *The Tech* reports.

Dec. 11: During this year's student group space allocations, a number of rooms in the Student Center

Student-Athletes Face Unique Challenges Beyond the Classroom

►► from *Profiles* on page 28

grew as friends. “Kendall really taught me how to execute every single day. I got better at competing because I was focused at all times.”

Now the two consider themselves competitors, teammates, and also friends. “The different aspects of our lives take different roles at different times, and it’s all worked out for the better,” Holbrook said.

Holbrook’s junior year was not absent of adversity. She missed the first half of the season with a herniated disc, which changed her focus from trying to win to just trying to be competitive. It also let her appreciate where she was with the sport, and helped her develop as a good teammate, captain, and role model for the team.

This development was also aided by her Alpha Chi Omega sorority sisters, whose unconditional support was extremely motivating for her, she said.

This season, Holbrook looks to qualify for the U.S.A. Spring National Championships, where a strong showing would win her a spot to compete at the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Amy R. Magnuson '10 — Track and Field

The women’s track and field team had one of its best seasons in 2007, setting Institute records in many events en route to its first ever NEWMAC Championship and highest ever finish at the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association’s Outdoor Track and Field Championship.

Part of this success can be attributed to the arrival of Amy R. Magnuson '10, who performed well in her rookie season. After a season setting numerous Institute records, including in the 100-meter hurdles and long jump, Magnuson earned a second place finish in the 100-meter hurdles at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

The finish made Magnuson the third All-American in the program’s history. In addition to Magnuson, Aline Thomas '08 and Chi-Fong Wang '07 also qualified for the NCAA Championships, elevating the program to one of the strongest Division III programs in New England.

Magnuson’s breakout season did not come easily though, as she had to deal with a calf injury that kept coming up. “Coach [Fletcher A. Brooks] was very supportive ... and the support of my teammates helped a lot. I couldn’t have gone as far without them,” Magnuson said.

A year earlier, Magnuson faced the same decision that many similar student-athletes face every year: where to attend college. For Magnuson, “my education was most important. To me it’s not just about athletics.”

Having a solid program certainly doesn’t hurt though. Before deciding

to come to MIT, Magnuson talked with Brooks about the track and field team. A year later in reflection, she is “pleasantly surprised about how good the program is, given that it’s Division III,” Magnuson said. “It’s been chal-



Omari Stephens—The Tech

Amy R. Magnuson '10 at the New England Division III women’s track and field championship, May 5–6.

lenging and a lot of work.”

As the 2008 season is now underway, Magnuson looks to improve her times and help the team improve overall. Given last year’s strong performance, achieving that will certainly be no easy feat, but Magnuson is “looking forward to the challenge.”

Amanda J. Morris '08 — Volleyball

Amanda J. Morris '08 is certainly no stranger to success, but ask her what she remembers most from last season, and it won’t be her team’s 3-2 victory over Wellesley College at home to get to the NCAA Division III Sweet 16.

“Moments when I saw my teammates mature,” she answered. “Especially when I saw the freshmen suddenly grasp a new skill, or games when the sophomores impressed me with smart choices.”

Morris finished her four years as a member of the women’s volleyball team by being named to the CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American First Team, becoming the first player in the program’s history to do so. Morris was also named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American Third Team, the program’s first such winner since 1984.

While the team fell a few victories short of reaching its goal of the NCAA Final Four, Morris still believes the team “achieved the spirit

of our mission.” This season was also special for the team, as MIT got to host the New England Regionals of the NCAA Tournament. “Playing in the NCAA tournament was one of my proudest moments. ... It was also a lot of pressure because I knew that if we lost, I would not be able to wear my jersey the next day,” since this was her final year of competition.

On a personal level, Morris hoped to improve on her setting and leadership this season. While the former is much more easily defined (Morris led NEWMAC with 1,385 assists this season), her leadership was evident in her relationships with the younger players. When considering what has helped her develop the most as a player, Morris attributes her growth in leadership and skills to the coaching staff. She also cites the different personalities and strengths of her teammates as helping her to become more confident and dynamic.

One particular challenge for Morris this year was developing her defense, as she had the opportunity to play more on the front line. Learning how to block effectively and transition into setting was a challenge for her, but she still had fun with it. “Our assistant coach Charles [I. Morton G] was so supportive that he and I made a fun bargain involving candy,” Morris said. “The extra incentive certainly helped me improve, but let’s just say I still owe him a few candy bars.”

Stephen A. Morton '10 — Track and Field

As a freshman, Stephen A. Morton '10 had an immediate impact on the men’s track and field team, helping to lead the team to its seventh straight NEWMAC Championship. Morton became the second rookie in the conference’s history to earn the honor of NEWMAC Male Athlete of the Year, an award that was rightly justified given his performance throughout the season.

Both a talented sprinter and jumper, Morton won the 200-meter dash, long jump, triple jump, and as anchor, the 4x100-meter relay at the NEWMAC Championships. He also placed third in the 100-meter dash.

Winning at NEWMACs was one of Morton’s most memorable moments of the season, but he didn’t stop there. Morton did well at the New England Division III Championships, where his time of 10.89 seconds in

Morton became the second rookie in the conference’s history to earn the honor of NEWMAC Male Athlete of the Year.

the 100-meter dash was good enough for fourth place. Morton also finished fifth in the long jump, all while facing hamstring problems that came up throughout the season.

Morton credits much of his development as an athlete to his coaches here at MIT. “I was real raw when I got here, but they helped me develop and get my technique down,” Morton said.

His teammates were also an inte-

Men’s Swimming and Diving

Record ('06-'07): 6-2
Head Coach: Dawn B. Gerken
2nd place, NEWMAC Championships
11th place, NCAA Division III Championships

Women’s Swimming and Diving

Record ('06-'07): 8-2
Head Coach: Dawn B. Gerken
2nd place, NEWMAC Championships
20th place, NCAA Division III Championships

Men’s Tennis

Record ('07): 13-6
Head Coach: David W. Hagymas
1st place, NEWMAC Championships

Women’s Tennis

Record ('07): 11-6
Head Coach: Carol Matsuzaki
2nd place, NEWMAC Championships

Men’s Track and Field

'07 Season:
Head Coach: Fletcher A. Brooks
1st place, NEWMAC Championships
4th place, New England Division III Championships

Women’s Track and Field

'07 Season:
Head Coach: Fletcher A. Brooks
1st place, NEWMAC Championships
2nd place, New England Division III Championships

Men’s Volleyball

Record ('07): 27-6
Head Coach: Paul Dill
1st place, New England Division, NECVA⁸
11th, National Division III Coaches Poll

Women’s Volleyball

Record ('07): 36-3
Head Coach: Paul Dill
1st place, NEWMAC
2nd place, NCAA Division III New England Regional

Water Polo

Record ('07): 16-11
Head Coach: Adam Foley
1st place, CWPA⁹ Division III Eastern Championships
5th place, CWPA Northern Division Championships

Wrestling

Record ('06-'07): 5-16
Head Coach: Thomas E. Layte
10th place, New England Tournament

¹New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference

²Intercollegiate Rowing Association

³Intercollegiate Fencing Association

⁴Eastern Coast Atlantic Conference

⁵Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association

⁶Mid-Atlantic Conference

⁷Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference

⁸North East Collegiate Volleyball Association

⁹Collegiate Water Polo Association



gral part of the learning process. “Everybody on the team is teaching you all the time. When the upperclassmen notice something wrong on your technique, they can explain it well,” Morton said. The team members also kept each other motivated by creating their own cheering sections for different events.

Despite being recruited by several Division I schools, including a few Ivy League universities, Morton chose MIT for a number of reasons. “The closeness of our team, the excitement around Boston, being able to compete with talented people from all over New England” were all major draws for the Kentucky-grown Morton, he said.

Looking forward to the upcoming season, Morton hopes to improve upon his times and be competitive at nationals. He also looks forward to helping his team be competitive in the Division III New England Championships.

Diana Nee '07 — Pistol

MIT continued its dominance in pistol in 2007, led by a student who coach Will Hart Jr. calls one of “the most skilled shooters in the history of the program.” Diana Nee '07 was selected as a National Rifle Association First Team All-American in standard pistol, air pistol, and sport pistol, leading MIT to its second national title in three years.

Coming into this year, the team made both individual and collective goals, the latter of which was clearly achieved by winning the national championship. Nee described the victory as “definitely one of the most rewarding events in my college career.”

Despite having to reduce their training time dramatically during the fall due to range renovations, the season was still a success. Key victories included wins over the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy. The win over the Naval Academy was extra special for the Engineers, as they set a new range record with their aggregate score.

Nee credits her coach, Hart, as a main reason for her success. “He has been instrumental in supporting me through both my pistol career and my MIT experience,” Nee said.

Though Nee graduated from MIT in the spring, she has continued to pursue competitive shooting and also helps as an assistant coach. In addition, she has been training for individual competition in the Olympics.

Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 — Volleyball

Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 had a dominating season on the men's volleyball team as he became MIT's all-time kill leader. His performance earned him the honor of North East Collegiate Volleyball Association's Player of the Year, and he was named to the NECVA All-Conference First Team. In addition to his skills on the court, Pamidimukkala's academics earned him a place on the CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American First Team.

The highlight of the year for the outside hitter came in a match against New England Division rivals Rivier College, who had won the division for the past several years. After losing T. Scott Pollom '09 due to injury the

Ruzevick Leads Men's Cross Country Team to 10th Consecutive Title

By Halston W. Taylor

The men's cross country team began the fall season with victories over the Tech alumni and at the Smith College Invitational. The team had no problem winning their 10th consecutive New England Men's and Women's Athletics Conference Championship with a near perfect score of 18 points. Jacob J. Ruzevick '09 was the team's top runner, earning NEWMAC Runner of the Year honors while Gihan S. Amarasiriwardena '11 took the NEWMAC Rookie of the Year award.

MIT had six runners finish in the top 10 overall, including Ruzevick (1st), Jeremiah R. “Yermie” Cohen

'09 (2nd), Joseph D. Roy-Mayhew '08 (4th), Hemagiri Arumugam '10 (5th), Jack H. Bourbonnais '10 (6th), Trevor B. Rundell '09 (7th), and M. Brian Jakes G (8th).

Even though Ruzevick was unable to finish the race at the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletics Association Championship, MIT still placed 12th among all New England colleges, including Division I, II, and III teams.

At the NCAA Division III Regional meet, MIT finished in sixth place out of 47 teams, just one spot short of qualifying for the national championship.

Halston W. Taylor is the head coach of the men's cross country team.

week before, Stephen D. Ray '08 filled in nicely and helped carry MIT to a 3-1 victory. The win helped MIT finish the regular season undefeated in divisional play to win the New England Division of NECVA.

One of the distinguishing qualities for Pamidimukkala and the team was their youth, as there were no seniors on the team. The role of co-captain was fulfilling for Pamidimukkala though. “It helped me learn how different people react to situations in different ways.”

When he first came to MIT, Pamidimukkala was “amazed at how well the entire coaching staff knew the game,” citing them as the main reason for his success and growth.

Working with his teammates has also been a main component of Pamidimukkala's recent development, as now he says he's at the point where most of his obstacles are mental, which includes getting the team ready to begin matches strong and focused.

Pamidimukkala is also proud of how the team performed in close matches. He said that the program used to struggle in matches that went the distance to five games, but last season included key wins in several such matches. In particular, MIT won a tough five set match against Endicott College in the opening round of the NECVA Tournament.

In his first two years with the team, Pamidimukkala developed a strong relationship with setter Jordan X. Wan '06, but was impressed by the way that Philip M. Rogoz '10 stepped in and performed once Wan graduated. Pamidimukkala credits the team's hard work ethic as the reason that they “were able to connect and gel together as an offense.”

As Pamidimukkala enters his final season of play, he hopes to help his team win the NECVA Championship and earn a birth in the NCAA Final Four. “Volleyball is what I came to MIT to do,” Pamidimukkala said. “It's been a hell of a ride, one of the best experiences of my life.”

Julia C. Zimmerman '09 — Gymnastics

Julia C. Zimmerman '09 did last season what no other MIT gymnast has done in the past: she qualified for the NCAA Division I Northeast Regional Championships. Not only did she qualify, Zimmerman performed well, placing 11th overall in the all-around competition.

Zimmerman qualified for the Division I Regional competition after taking the title of National Collegiate Gymnastics Association All-Around Champion, becoming the second MIT woman gymnast ever to do so. Her performance led her to be named NCAA Division III Northeast Region Gymnast of the Year along with East Coast Athletic Conference Gymnast of the Year.

In looking forward to this upcoming season, Zimmerman says that she hopes to help the team make nationals.

Before coming to MIT,

Zimmerman trained for 25–30 hours a week in club gymnastics. In her three years of collegiate competition, her training has been reduced to only around 10 hours a week. The change has had a beneficial effect on Zimmerman, she said, as it has allowed her to stay healthier.

“Before I came here I was getting injured left and right,” she said. These injuries included shoulder surgery in high school, along with a bone chip in her neck, from which she has now fully recovered.

The size of the team has also helped Zimmerman, as “since there's fewer of us, only three to four people per event, we can learn a lot more in the time we have,” she said.

Zimmerman credits being a part of a close-knit team as a reason that she has become a better, more consistent competitor. “The pressure's not just for you to do well, but to do well for the team.”

Zimmerman, who holds several Institute records including best all-around score, also was named to the CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American First Team.

“The pressure's not just for you to do well, but to do well for the team.”

— Julia C. Zimmerman '09

and Walker Memorial have been marked as spaces that could “be allocated in more creative ways to better serve the student group community,” according to the Association of Student Activities.

Dec. 17: Students and faculty gather in Lobby 7 to take part in the MIT Community Winter Break, sponsored by the Office of the President. The Winter Break was originally scheduled for Dec. 13, but was rescheduled after a Dec. 13 snowstorm forced MIT to close at 2 p.m.

Dec. 19: Over 200 people attend the faculty meeting to discuss a motion that asked MIT to limit its public statements about community members facing criminal investigations. The original motion was sparked by an MIT press release calling Star A. Simpson '10 “reckless” on the day of her arrest at Logan Airport. After hours of acrimonious discussion, the original motion is defeated by a 31-36 vote. The faculty also vote against two alternate proposals.

Jan. 9: Anna L. Tang, who allegedly stabbed her ex-boyfriend Wolfe B. Styke '10 multiple times in his Next House room in October 2007, is released after a \$10,000 cash bail is posted on her behalf.

Jan. 10: Nineteen members of the MIT community are asked by the recording industry to preemptively settle lawsuits for allegedly downloading music illegally, according to an RIAA press release.

Jan. 16: Forty-six Steelcase chairs, worth \$20,000, have been stolen from the Student Center's fifth floor reading room, *The Tech* reports. Most of the thefts happened between August and October 2007.

Jan. 16: Laurie Ward, financial administrator of the Student Activities Office since 2000, has moved to an administrative position in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, *The Tech* reports. Her position at SAO will not be filled immediately.

Jan. 17: Toscanini's Ice Cream is seized by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for nonpayment of more than \$167,000 in back taxes.

Jan. 22: Lecture hall 10-250 is undergoing demolition as part of an upgrade that will include new seating, carpeting, lighting, heating, ventilation, and cooling. Renovation will continue through the spring semester; large classes traditionally held in 10-250 will move to other venues for the spring.

Jan. 23: One MIT student who has received a demand letter from the RIAA alleging copyright infringement said he planned not to settle and that he would fight the RIAA's attempts to learn his identity, *The Tech* reports.

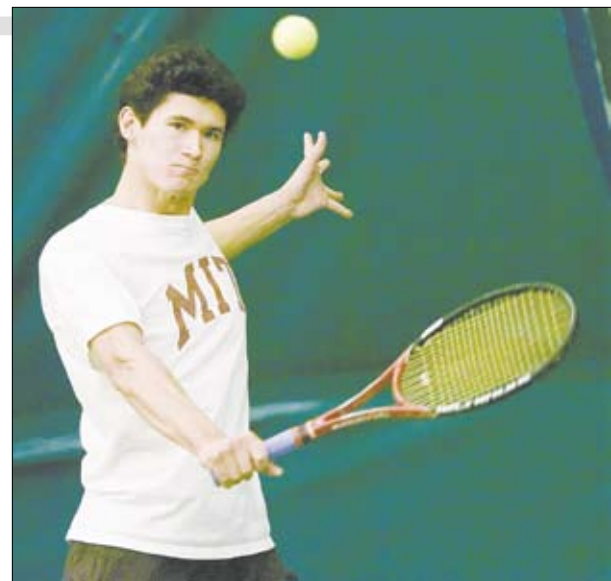
Jan. 25: Toscanini's reopens after beginning to repay its \$167,000 tax bill. An online campaign at *savetosci.com* raised more than \$31,000 which was used to help pay the back taxes.

— Compiled by Angeline Wang



Through the Lens

The Year in Sports



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 7 | 3 |
| | 4 |
| 6 | 8 |
| | 5 |
1. Football, Sept. 29—David M. Templeton
 2. Men's basketball, Nov. 29—David M. Templeton
 3. Jiu Jitsu, Feb. 28—Eric D. Schmiedl
 4. Men's tennis, March 11—David M. Templeton
 5. Women's ice hockey—David M. Templeton
 6. Baseball, May 4—Gheorghe Chistol
 7. Men's Soccer, Sept. 4—Alex H. Chan
 8. Cycling Club, Sept. 16—Omari Stephens

