

Forum Features Controversial Speakers

MIT Students in Both Jewish and Muslim Communities Unhappy Over Choice of Speakers

By Kristina M. Holton
STAFF REPORTER

Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss and Imam Mohammed al-Asi, who both hold anti-Zionistic views concerning the formation of an Islamic state, were asked to speak at the Forum on American Progress last Thursday night, a choice which was viewed as controversial by both the Jewish and Muslim communities at MIT. The forum, titled "Foreign Policy and Social Justice: A Jewish View, A Muslim View," began with prepared lectures from the two speakers followed by a question and answer session.

According to FAP President Ali S. Wyne '08, members of the Social Justice Cooperative recruited the lecturers, then solicited the sponsorship of the FAP. The School for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences co-sponsored the event, which was held in Room 10-250.

Abdulasier Aziz G from the SJC said, "Both [speakers] had been getting flak from their own religious communities because of their understandings of justice: the Imam for his criticism of Saudi Arabia, and the Rabbi for his criticism of Israel. We wanted to give them a platform especially since they had been so demonized for speaking their mind in good conscience."

Before the forum, Students for Israel President David E. Stiebel '09 said, "What people fail to realize is



Controversial figures Yisroel Dovid Weiss (left) and Mohammad al-Asi (right) greet each other before each giving an address to the crowd.

that we [the Jewish community] are so upset, concerned, and insulted, not because of what he [Weiss] will say, but that he has been chosen to represent the 'Jewish View.'"

Weiss and his sect Neturei Karta are widely publicized for their anti-

Zionist sentiments. al-Asi is also anti-Zionist.

Members of the Jewish community distributed pamphlets to forum attendees posing the questions,

"Does this man [al-Asi] represent true Islam?/Does this man [Weiss]

represent true Judaism?" The presidents of many Jewish campus organizations also advertised a statement in Friday's edition of *The Tech*.

Part of the advertisement read,

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Fire at Boston University Kills Two Students

By Brian R. Ballou
and Maria Cramer

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Boston fire officials are investigating what caused a blaze to rip through an Audubon Circle apartment building yesterday, killing two Boston University students, injuring a third man, and displacing 30 people, many of them college students.

Fire officials did not identify the man or the woman who died in the three-alarm fire at 19 and 21 Aberdeen St. They said the third victim suffered from smoke inhalation and was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was in serious condition. Officials said they need to interview him before determining what caused the fire to break out at 5:15 a.m. at the three-story building.

Relatives identified the woman as Rhiannon McCuish, 21, of Mashpee. The man was identified by a friend as Stephen Adelipour, 21, a Boston University senior.

Those displaced yesterday described a chaotic morning that began when NStar employees trying to repair a power outage on Aberdeen Street saw flames shooting from the roof and the windows of the third floor of 21 Aberdeen St. They began screaming to alert residents inside.

"I was never so scared," said Lauren Fischer, 21, who was sleeping in her first-floor apartment in the building when she was awakened by the sounds of breaking glass and the smell of smoke. "I've never seen anything like it in my life."

Holt Pagano, a sophomore at Emmanuel College who lives at 19 Aberdeen St., said he and his roommates had lit candles after the power failed before 9 p.m.

"I assume others did, too," said

Fire, Page 11

'Socially Awkward' Told to Leave DePauw Sorority

By Sam Dillon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GREENCASTLE, IND.

When a psychology professor at DePauw University surveyed students, they described one sorority as a group of "daddy's little princesses" and another as "offbeat hippies." The sisters of Delta Zeta were seen as "socially awkward." Worried that a neg-

ative stereotype of the sorority was contributing to a decline in membership that had left its Greek-columned house here half empty, Delta Zeta's national officers interviewed 35 DePauw members in November, quizzing them about their dedication to increasing recruitment. They judged 23 of the women insufficiently committed and later told them to vacate

the sorority house.

The 23 members included every woman who was overweight. They also included the only black, Korean and Vietnamese members. The dozen students allowed to stay were slender and popular with fraternity men — conventionally pretty women the sorority hoped could attract new recruits. Six of the 12 were so infuri-

ated they quit.

"Virtually everyone who didn't fit a certain sorority member archetype was told to leave," said Kate Holloway, a senior who withdrew from the chapter during its reorganization.

"I sensed the disrespect with which this was to be carried out, and got fed up," Holloway added. "I didn't have room in my life for these women to come in and tell my sisters of three years that they weren't needed."

Holloway is not the only angry one. The reorganization has left a messy aftermath of recrimination

Sorority, Page 14

Film on 'Islam's War Against The West' Causes Protests

Film Showings Canceled on Campuses Around Country

By Karen W. Aronson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

When *Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West*, a documentary that shows Muslims urging attacks on the United States and Europe, was screened recently at the University of California, Los Angeles, it drew an audience of more than 300 — and also dozens of protesters.

At Pace University in New York, administrators pressured the Jewish student organization Hillel to cancel a showing in November, arguing it could spur hate crimes against Muslim students. A Jewish group at

the State University of New York at Stony Brook also canceled the film last semester.

The documentary has become the latest flashpoint in the bitter campus debate over the Middle East, not just because of its clips from Arab television rarely shown in the West, including scenes of suicide bombers being recruited and inducted, but also because of its pro-Israel distribution network.

When a Middle East discussion group organized a showing at New

Film, Page 13



JONGU SHIN—THE TECH

Angie Chiang '09 plays traditional music on a Chinese flute during the Association of Taiwanese Students' Lunar New Year festival, held on Saturday, Feb. 24 in McCormick Hall.

In Short

¶ The deadline to waive or enroll in the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan is tomorrow, Feb. 28. More information can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/medical/>.

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



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Scott's travels through Moscow take him to The Hungry Duck

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WORLD & NATION

Diplomats to Draft New UN Sanctions on Iran

By Helene Cooper

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The coalition of six world powers that has been trying to get Iran to rein in its nuclear program will begin drafting a new U.N. Security Council resolution to ratchet up the pressure again, officials said Monday after a meeting in London.

Top officials from the United States, Britain, China, Russia, Germany and France agreed to begin working on the resolution after the International Atomic Energy Agency reported last week that Iran was expanding its efforts to enrich uranium, in continuing defiance of the United Nations.

The State Department spokesman, Sean McCormack, said the United States was willing to join in talks between the Europeans and Iran over the nuclear program, provided that Iran suspended its uranium enrichment.

McCormack added: "Should they choose not to proceed down that pathway, then there will be consequences. And those consequences will be diplomatic isolation from the rest of the world."

British Court Affirms Deporting Cleric to Jordan

By Jane Perlez

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

A British court ruled Monday that the government could deport a radical Islamic cleric to Jordan, setting the stage for the deportation of other foreign terrorism suspects in Britain to countries with poor human rights records.

The case of the cleric, Abu Qatada, which has been watched closely in Washington, is the first involving foreigners in Britain accused of posing threats to national security whom the government wants to deport rather than put on trial. Qatada, a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian background who has been living in Britain since 1994, has been convicted in absentia by a Jordanian court on bombing and conspiracy charges.

Qatada has been described by the British authorities as a spiritual guide to Al Qaeda. Tapes of his preaching encouraging violence against the West were found among the belongings of Mohamed Atta, the leader of the Sept. 11 hijackers, and he met with Richard C. Reid, the failed shoe bomber, the police say.

Iranian Academics Denounce Holocaust Conference

By Nazila Fathi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

A group of Iranian academics, writers, and artists has denounced the Holocaust conference held in Tehran late last year, calling it a move that endangered peace and hurt the reputation of Iranian academics.

The Iranian government organized a two-day gathering in December, billed it as a legitimate conference on the historical record, and invited notorious Holocaust deniers and white supremacists from around the world. Among those representing the United States was the former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke.

The foreign ministry held the event after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad claimed several times that the Holocaust was a myth invented to justify the state of Israel.

In a bold gesture, more than twenty academics, writers, and artists, many of whom live outside of Iran, signed a statement that was sent to The New York Times and circulated on the Internet last week, arguing that the gathering was an exercise in propaganda.

The statement said that the conference harmed the academic image of Iranian universities and merely provided a pretext for warmongers in the region.

Iraqi Blocs Reach an Accord On Oil Revenue Distribution

By Edward Wong

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

The Iraqi Cabinet approved a draft of a law on Monday that would set guidelines for nationwide distribution of oil revenues and foreign investment in the immense oil industry. The endorsement reflected a major agreement among the country's ethnic and sectarian political blocs on one of Iraq's most divisive issues.

The draft law approved by the Cabinet allows the central government to distribute oil revenues to the provinces or regions based on population, which could lessen the economic concerns of the rebellious Sunni Arabs, who fear being cut out of Iraq's vast potential oil wealth by the dominant Shiites and Kurds. Most of Iraq's crude oil reserves lie in the Shiite south and Kurdish north.

The law also grants regional oil companies or governments the power to sign contracts with foreign companies for exploration and development of fields, opening the door for investment by foreign companies in a country whose oil reserves rank among the world's three largest.

Iraqi officials say dozens of major foreign companies, including ones based in the United States, Russia and China, have expressed strong interest in developing fields or have done some work with the Iraqi industry. The national oil law would allow regions to enter into production-sharing agreements with foreign companies, which some Iraqis say could lead to foreigners reaping too much of the country's oil wealth.

Iraqi officials say all such contracts will be subjected to a fair bidding process, but American inspectors have reported that the upper echelons of the Iraqi government, including the senior ranks of the Oil Ministry, are rife with corruption. There are also fears among non-Americans that American companies could be favored.

But oil industry analysts in the United States say it is unclear if companies will rush to sign contracts because the law is vague about what legal protections investors would be given.

The oil law and several related measures must still be approved by Parliament before they are enacted. Since the American-led invasion of

2003, Iraqi politics has often been split bitterly along ethnic and sectarian lines, and that kind of conflict could stall the law's passage. Drafts were debated for months by a committee before the Cabinet finally approved one.

"At the end of the day, we all supported this thing because it's workable for all the parties," said Barham Salih, a deputy prime minister and the head of the committee.

Distributing revenue by population is not guaranteed to placate the feuding parties because no accurate census exists. There is intense disagreement over demographics in Iraq — many Sunni Arabs insist they are the majority of Iraqis, even though Sunni Arabs are generally estimated to be 20 percent of the population, Kurds 20 percent and Shiite Arabs 60 percent.

If the law is passed, its effect on Iraq's oil industry could be enormous, assuming that foreign companies would be willing to work here despite the violence. Iraq has 80 known oil fields, 65 of which will be offered for bids for development contracts, said Hussain al-Shahristani, the oil minister.

Int'l Court of Justice Rules That 1995 Massacre Was a Genocide

By Marlise Simons

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

The International Court of Justice on Monday for the first time called the massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica in 1995 an act of genocide, but determined that Serbia itself was not guilty of the enormous crime.

Nonetheless, it faulted Serbia, saying it "could and should" have prevented the genocide and, in its aftermath, should have punished the Bosnian Serbs who systematically killed close to 8,000 men in July 1995.

The ruling resulted from a civil lawsuit Bosnia had brought against Serbia, the first in which one country sued another for genocide.

The 15 international judges who held nine weeks of hearings and deliberated for nearly 10 months relied in part on evidence presented in

criminal cases heard by the United Nations Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which has found two Bosnian Serb officers guilty of genocide for the Srebrenica massacre.

In the end, the lawsuit resolved Monday may have been the most complex case handled in the 60-year history of the World Court, which the United Nations set up to resolve legal disputes between states.

The ruling appeared to give some satisfaction — and frustration — to both sides. It freed Serbia of the stigma of being a genocidal nation and absolved it from having to pay war reparations, as demanded by Bosnia.

At the same time, Bosnia obtained what it said it wanted from the outset: "a recognition of Serbia's guilt."

During the war in Bosnia, from 1992 to 1995, the United Nations declared Srebrenica a haven and prom-

ised to protect it. But in July 1995, Bosnian Serb forces overwhelmed 370 lightly armed Dutch peacekeepers, seized control of the enclave and killed almost every Bosnian Muslim man and boy captured there.

That massacre led to the ruling Monday, which also stressed that other large-scale killings and abuse of Bosnian Muslims had taken place with the financial and military support of Serbia during the 1990s war that broke up Yugoslavia.

Judge Rosalyn Higgins, the court's president, read the ruling, which described the close ties between Serbia and the Bosnian Serb forces. It said that the leaders in Belgrade, and President Slobodan Milosevic above all, "were fully aware of the deep-seated hatred which reigned between the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslims in the Srebrenica region," and that massacres were likely to occur.

WEATHER

Winter Hangs On

By Angela Zalucha

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Despite the approach of the first day of climatological spring on March 1, winter conditions continue to stay with us. As of yesterday evening, Logan Airport had received 1.6 inches of snow from the most recent snowstorm, bringing the seasonal total to 6.4 inches. On this day last year the total was 39.9 inches. It looks like we will have another chance to increase the total late this week and into the weekend, as a low pressure system over the Rockies moves eastward and intensifies. This system brings a whole bag of goodies in terms of precipitation — everything from snow to rain and freezing rain. High temperatures this week will be in the upper 30s°F, while lows will be in the upper 20s°F.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a chance of snow. High 36°F (2°C).

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 28°F (-2°C).

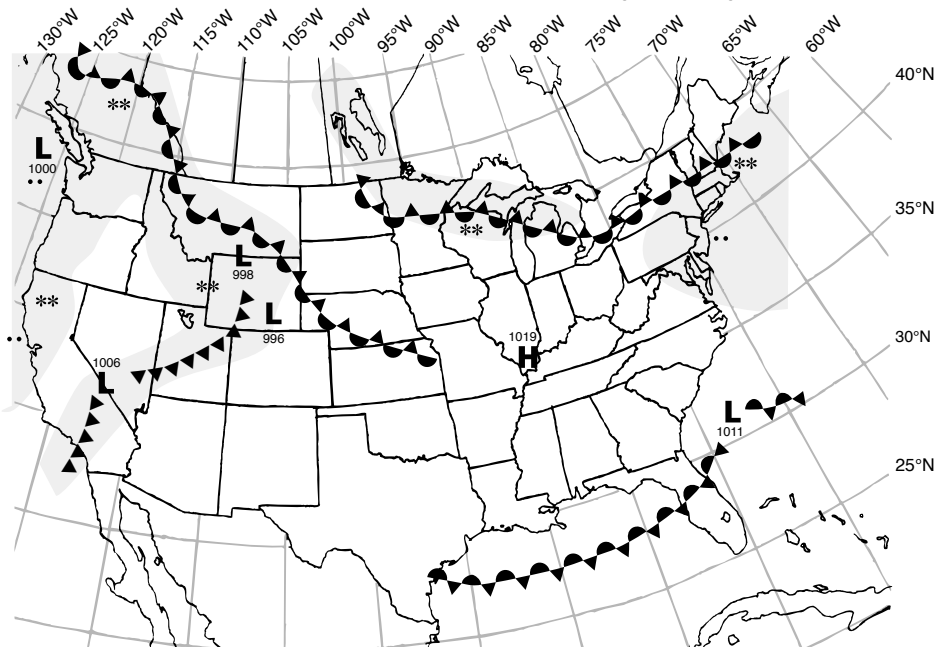
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy. High 41°F (5°C).

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 28°F (-2°C).

Thursday: Mostly sunny. High 38°F (3°C).

Friday: Rain and snow. High 36°F (2°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 27, 2007



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Judge Blocks City's Attempt To Use Obscure Law to Cap Fines

By Andy Newman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

A federal judge on Monday rejected New York City's attempt to use an obscure 19th-century maritime law to cap its liability in the 2003 crash of a Staten Island ferry at \$14 million.

The ruling exposes the city to tens of millions of dollars in damage awards to relatives of those killed and to scores of people injured when the ferry, the Andrew J. Barberi, crashed into a maintenance pier at the Staten Island ferry terminal.

Eleven people died in what was one of the worst mass transit disasters in the city's history.

The city had argued that the accident was covered by an 1851 act, aimed at encouraging investment in the shipbuilding industry, that limited a vessel owner's liability to the value of the ship minus the repair costs — in this case \$14.4 million. The judge ruled, however, that the 1851 law did not apply if the city's managers had been negligent, and he found that they had been.

The city has already paid out

\$27.6 million to settle two-thirds of the 186 damage claims. Of the 11 people killed in the crash, the estates of only two have settled with the city, for \$3 million and \$450,000.

The amounts of many settlements were held down, lawyers for the plaintiffs said, by the city's argument that if it succeeded in capping the liability, the plaintiffs stood to win relatively little.

"The courthouse door is now open for all of the claimants to get just and proper compensation," said Anthony Bisignano III, a lawyer for 10 of the remaining 65 plaintiffs. Bisignano said that in addition to the nine outstanding death claims, there were many claims from passengers with serious injuries, including amputations and paralysis.

Bisignano said that the 1851 act was the same one cited by the owners of the Titanic in an attempt to "limit the amount of damages to the value of a couple of dozen lifeboats." The city said it would consider appealing.

On the afternoon of Oct. 15, 2003, the ferry slammed into a pier at top speed after the assistant captain operating it, Richard J. Smith, blacked out

during the last half mile of the trip from Manhattan to Staten Island. The accident ripped open the side of the 3,300-ton vessel like a sardine can. People were crushed, mangled and decapitated.

A city rule requiring that two captains be in the pilothouse in the front of the ferry while it is in motion was not followed. The captain, Michael J. Gansas, was on board at the time of the crash, but in the pilothouse that faced Manhattan, not the one that faced Staten Island, as he should have been.

The city had also argued that because its two-pilot rule was stricter than required by general negligence principles, the violation of the rule did not constitute negligence.

In any case, the city said, individual crewmembers, not the city, were at fault.

But the judge, Edward R. Korman of U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, rejected those arguments. He wrote that by adopting the two-pilot rule, the city acknowledged a serious risk of accident if the pilot were incapacitated, and that knowledge of that risk required the city to remedy it.

CIA Perjury Case Juror Dismissed, Trial Will Continue With 11 Jurors

By Neil A. Lewis
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The judge presiding over the perjury trial of I. Lewis Libby Jr. dismissed one of the jurors in the midst of deliberations on Monday and ruled that the case should go forward with the remaining 11-member jury.

Judge Reggie B. Walton said the dismissed juror had improperly learned some information about the case outside of the courtroom but he did not explain further. He said it appeared that the juror had not done so intentionally but through some unspecified misunderstanding.

After questioning the jurors, Walton said no one else had been tainted by the information. Jurors are supposed to decide cases solely on the evidence and testimony presented during the trial. Deliberations resumed after the juror was dismissed and were to continue on Tuesday.

The dismissed juror was a woman who had worked for years as a curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, before moving

to Washington. Walton ruled, over the objections of the prosecution, that he would not replace the juror with one of two alternates on standby and instead would have the remaining 11 jurors continue to try to decide the case. "I don't think it would be appropriate to throw away those two and a half days," he said, referring to the more than 18 hours of deliberations the jurors had completed by Monday morning.

If Walton had replaced the juror, he would have been required to instruct the newly reconstituted jury to begin its deliberations from the beginning, as if there had been no previous discussions.

Theodore V. Wells Jr., Libby's lead defense lawyer, said that to add a new juror and restart deliberations would be prejudicial to his client. "It would be inappropriate and unfair" to discard the deliberations thus far, Wells argued.

Patrick J. Fitzgerald, the chief prosecutor, said that the government believed a replacement juror should be seated and that there was no doubt that the 11 remaining jurors would follow the judge's instruc-

tions to begin their deliberations anew.

But Walton said he did not want to "throw away" the time the jury had already spent considering the case.

The alternates are two women who sat through the entire case as part of a panel of 14 jurors and were informed by Walton that they were alternates only just before deliberations began. He told them at the time that they could be recalled to participate in the deliberations if needed and warned them to continue to abide by his instructions to avoid any news coverage of the case.

The decision by Libby's defense team to urge that the trial proceed without a new 12th juror seemed to be counter to conventional wisdom in such situations, lawyers said.

Because a unanimous jury is needed for a guilty verdict, a defendant need convince only one juror of his innocence to avoid a conviction. As a result, lawyers said, defense lawyers prefer to have as many sitting jurors as possible to increase the chances of having someone who refuses to vote for a guilty verdict.

Research Uses Sonofusion to Generate Temperatures Hot Enough For Fusion

By Kenneth Chang
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Brian Kappus, a physics graduate student at UCLA, tipped the clear cylinder to trap some air bubbles in the clear liquid inside. He clamped the cylinder, upright, on a small turntable and set it spinning. With the flip of another switch, powerful up-and-down vibrations, 50 a second, started shaking the cylinder.

A bubble floating in the liquid — phosphoric acid — started to shine, brightening into an intense ball of light like a miniature star.

The shining bubble did not produce any significant energy, but perhaps someday it might, just like a star. A few small companies and maverick university laboratories, including this one at UCLA run by Seth Putterman, a professor of physics, are pursuing quixotic solutions for future energy, trying to tap the power of the Sun — hot nuclear fusion — in devices that fit on a tabletop.

Putterman's approach is to use sound waves, called sonofusion or bubble fusion, to expand and col-

lapse tiny bubbles, generating ultrahot temperatures. At temperatures hot enough, atoms can literally fuse and release even more energy than when they split in nuclear fission, now used in nuclear power plants and weapons. Furthermore, fusion is clean in that it does not produce long-lived nuclear waste. Putterman has not achieved fusion in his experiments. He and other scientists form a small but devoted cadre interested in turning small-scale desktop fusion into usable systems. Although success is far away, the principles seem sound.

Other researchers already have working desktop fusion devices, including ones that are descendants of the Farnsworth Fusor invented four decades ago by Philo T. Farnsworth, the television pioneer.

Achieving nuclear fusion, even in a desktop device, is not particularly difficult. But building a fusion reactor that generates more energy than it consumes is far more challenging.

So far, all fusion reactors, big and small, fall short of this goal. Many fusion scientists are skeptical that small-scale alternatives hold any promise of

breaking the break-even barrier.

Impulse Devices, a small company in the small town of Grass Valley, Calif., is exploring the same sound-driven fusion as Putterman, pushing forward with venture capital financing. Its president, Ross Tessien, concedes that Impulse is a high-risk investment, but the potential payoffs would be many.

"You solve the world's pollution problems," Tessien said. "You eliminate the need for wars. You eliminate scarcity of fuel. And it happens to be a very valuable market. So from a commercial point of view, there's every incentive. From a moral point of view, there's every incentive. And it's fun and it's exciting work."

The Sun produces energy by continually pressing together four hydrogen atoms — a hydrogen atom has a single proton in its nucleus — into one helium atom, with a nucleus of two protons and two neutrons. A helium atom weighs less than the four original hydrogen atoms. So by Einstein's $E=mc^2$ equation, the change in mass is transformed into a burst of energy.

Paraguay's Ruling Party Faces Threat of a Populist Bishop

By Larry Rohter

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

No political party currently in power anywhere in the world has governed longer than the Colorado Party here, not even the Kim family's Communist dynasty in North Korea. But a charismatic Roman Catholic bishop recently suspended by the Vatican is threatening that hegemony and has emerged as the front-runner for next year's presidential election.

Known as "the bishop of the poor," Monsignor Fernando Lugo Mendez has been strongly influenced by liberation theology, which emerged in Latin America in the 1960s and contends that the Roman Catholic Church has a special obligation to defend the oppressed and downtrodden. But he is reluctant to position himself on the political spectrum, saying that he is interested in solutions, not labels.

"As I am accustomed to saying, hunger and unemployment, like the lack of access to health and education, have no ideology," he said in an interview here. "My discourse, my person and my testimony are above political parties, whose own members are desirous of change and want an end to a system that favors narrow partisan interests over those of the country."

The Colorado Party has been the ruling party here since 1947. Gen. Alfredo Stroessner led a dictatorship notorious for corruption and brutality from 1954 to 1989, but, thanks to its tight control of patronage and the bureaucracy, the party managed to retain control of the government even under the current system of free elections.

US Displays Bomb Parts Said To Be Made in Iran

By James Glanz
and Richard A. O'Connell Jr.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

In a dusty field near the Baghdad airport on Monday, the American military displayed hundreds of components for assembling deadly roadside bombs, its latest effort to embarrass Iran, the country it contends is supplying the material to armed Shiite groups here.

Officers of the 1st Cavalry Division whose unit seized the components said they had been found in a palm grove just north of the capital two days earlier, after a tip from a local resident. An explosives expert said the components were made to be assembled into the deadly canisters called explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, which explode and hurl out a high-speed blob of copper designed to cut through tough American armor.

"I've lost good friends to these EFPs," said Capt. Clayton Combs, whose unit turned up the cache of weapons. "And the fact that we found these before they got to the side of the road is just a huge win for us."

The cache included what Maj. Marty Weber, a master explosives ordnance technician, said was C-4 explosive, a white substance, in clear plastic bags with red labels that he said contained serial numbers and other information that clearly marked it as Iranian.

But while the find gave experts much more information on the makings of the EFPs, which the American military has repeatedly argued must originate in Iran, the cache also included items that appeared to cloud the issue.

Israeli Crackdown in West Bank City Continues

By Greg Myre

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israeli troops searched for militants and weapons in the West Bank city of Nablus for a third day Monday, going door to door and periodically clashing with gunmen and stone-throwing youths.

One Palestinian man was killed and his son was wounded, Palestinians said, the first fatality since Israel began the operation Saturday through the warren of homes and shops in the market area of central Nablus.

The Israeli troops, in dozens of jeeps and armored vehicles, have placed the neighborhood under curfew and blocked off the surrounding streets with concrete blocks while they conducted an open-ended search. The operation has kept tens of thousands of residents confined to their homes.

"The operation will carry on until we achieve our main mission," said Brig. Gen. Yair Golan, the commander of forces in the city.

Over the past year, more attempted attacks against Israel have originated in Nablus than in any other West Bank city, the general said.

The Israeli military said on Monday that soldiers had surrounded a house after they received reports that gunmen were inside. When two men from the house were seen climbing onto the roof, the soldiers fired, killing one and wounding the other, the military said.

3 French Citizens Slain in Ambush in Saudi Arabia

By Hassan M. Fattah

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Gunmen killed three French citizens and wounded a fourth near the holy city of Medina in Saudi Arabia early Monday in a brazen reminder that attacks on foreigners there have not stopped despite an aggressive three-year security crackdown.

The Saudi Interior Ministry said eight French citizens had been traveling toward Medina from Tabuk, a northwestern town, when they came under attack. Two men were pronounced dead on the scene and another died in a provincial hospital later in the day, a Saudi security official said.

A fourth member of the group was listed in critical condition, Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, an Interior Ministry spokesman, said late Monday.

Turki said the group had stopped by the side of a road typically restricted to Muslims about 10 miles from Medina when a car pulled near them and opened fire.

The group included men, women and at least one child, he said, but only men were struck in the attack.

Two of the victims were identified by colleagues as engineers who worked at Schneider Electric in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

OPINION



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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$45.00 per year (third class) and \$105.00 (first class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © 2007 *The Tech*. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.



Institute Wisdom Watch

By *The Tech* Editorial Board



Hunger Strike Ends; Sherley Blinks First: Legal Sea Foods beats dying defiantly outside Provost's office.



MIT Admins Respond to Hacker Case: Almost too little, not quite too late. Don't let it happen again.



A Jewish View, A Muslim View: Wait, where's the Jewish view?



MIT Police: Thanks, you've got the police part down. Now who do you work for again?



Biodiesel for Tech Shuttles: Mmm ... fries.



Brass Rat "Controversy": Really, find something better to do.



Ying Yang Twins: Wait till you see their show.



Gore's Still Not Running for President: Damn that Oscars music.

Corrections

In the Friday, Feb. 23 article "Used Grease to Power Shuttles," Matthew R. Zedler '07 should have been identified as a *Tech* Campus Life staff writer.

Letters To The Editor

MIT Alumni Object to Extreme Misrepresentation of Judaism

The organizers of the recent event entitled "Foreign Policy and Social Justice: a Jewish View, a Muslim View" abused their academic right to free speech to spread horrible lies, hurting the MIT community and staining the good name of the Institute. As Jewish alumni, we are disgusted that Dovid Weiss was invited to present a "Jewish" view, despite the fact he is rejected across the Jewish spectrum for his unethical politics and his disgraceful warping of the history of the Holocaust.

Judging by its title, last Thursday's event sounded laudable. It claimed to bring together "scholars" from Judaism and Islam to address issues of social justice in a region of the world significant to each faith and central to modern international relations. Such discussion is fitting and necessary in an academic institution producing its share of future world leaders. However, this discussion must be an honest one if the community is to gain any greater understanding of different cultures and the struggles across the world. The organizers of Thursday's talk failed horribly in this regard. The speaker who presented "Judaism" in 10-250 belongs to a fringe cult ostracized by the Jewish community because of the cult's unacceptable actions and social "values." Dovid Weiss betrays the Jewish people in his words. The organizers of Thursday's event betrayed MIT by painting Weiss as holding a Jewish view.

Some may be quick to counter that Judaism is known for its diversity of opinions, and that Weiss's claims must be viewed as one opinion in many. However, Jews across the spectrum, from secular to traditional, condemn Weiss' cult "Neturei Karta," for attending and lending support to the Holocaust denial conference in Iran. The Jewish world viewed this action as a disgrace to the memory of the six million Jews killed. In the Jewish perspective, no rationale can justify standing at any event that is predominantly (if not entirely) filled with

speeches denying the extent or the existence of the Holocaust. Many traditional rabbinical authorities have joined together to place the cult in "cherem," the Jewish equivalent of excommunication, for these and similar actions.

Dovid Weiss does not represent any valid form of Judaism. Inviting him to provide "a Jewish view" is tantamount to asking a defrocked priest, banned from the Church, to give a lecture on Catholicism. Indeed, his cult is as poor a representative of Jewish values as the Ku Klux Klan is of American values.

In light of Neturei Karta's nearly-universal banishment from Judaism, last Thursday's event is an insult to the idea of the pluralistic forum — far from the "auspicious" ideal so falsely advertised. Neturei Karta regularly employs religious rhetoric and flaunts the "Orthodox" appearance of its members to present its heretical views as "authentic" Judaism. In the guise of free speech, a small, misguided group of MIT students and organizers have joined in the lie.

There are many students on MIT's campus who have not been exposed to the many nuances of Judaism, the complex history of its culture, and how the Jews as a people have adapted to the modern world, embraced science, and have engaged themselves in the greater society. Dovid Weiss does not conform to any of the norms of Judaism in the world. Publicizing him as representing the Jewish people to the MIT community was an action misleading those who do not understand Jewish culture (i.e., those targeted by the event), as well as deeply insulting those people who are a part of Jewish culture.

Thursday, Feb. 22, was a dark day for the MIT community. We hope those misinformed by the liar Dovid Weiss will turn to Jewish students and community members to learn more about the diversity of REAL Jewish views on social justice, in Israel, in the Middle East, and in the world at large. We hope those with sufficient knowledge of the many valid Jewish opinions will come forward to present them to the community. And, above all, we hope this is the last time a small number of MIT community members abuse their freedom of speech to spread serious misunderstandings to the broader community. As future and current leaders in

science, technology, policy, and countless other areas of society, we must strive for honest communication to improve our world.

Shifra (Teitz) Ben-Dor '92
Benjamin D. Cooper '06
Tal M. Fishman '02
Matya Y. Gilbert-Schachter '05
Andrew M. Goldsweig '03
Howard E. Katz '78
Joshua S. Katz '06
Sam N. Korb '04
Daniel D. Leeds '05, '06
Reuven M. Lerner '92
Stuart L. Litwin '81
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Rachel R. Parke-Houben '03
Benjamin Pick '02
Samuel L. Raymond '06
Alex Sherman '99
Maxim Shusteff '03
Michael J. Star '07
Daniel J. Thumim '93

Threat of Eminent Domain Overstated

Justin Wong's column, "Eminent Domain, Imminent Danger," appearing in *The Tech* on Feb. 20, certainly captured the disruption and perceived unfairness of many property acquisitions through the powerful government tool of eminent domain. On the other hand, it omitted some important facts surrounding eminent domain and American law that might let us step back from the sense of imminent danger proclaimed in the column's headline.

Most of the column is devoted to describing the varieties of disruption that property owners are subject to in eminent domain — replacing a home or successful business or reproducing the happiness that has been accrued by the ownership of one's own home. A couple of slippery slope arguments are also advanced — the potential chilling effect on investment and economic growth of the threat of the loss of one's business property to the government and even the loss of free speech and press if

Letters, Page 5

Opinion Policy

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

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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Defending Free Speech at MIT

Ali S. Wyne

Who should be allowed to lecture in public forums? Rabbi Dovid Weiss and Imam Muhammad al-Asi spoke last Thursday at "Foreign Policy and Social Justice: A Jewish View, A Muslim View." Given that their opinions are so contentious, should the event's sponsors have hesitated before inviting them?



Rabbi Weiss, a member of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect known as the Neturei Karta, believes that the State of Israel should not exist until the coming of the Messiah. Furthermore, he attended last December's Iranian conference on the Holocaust. Having returned, he has been forbidden from entering synagogues and denied service at kosher stores in Brooklyn.

Imam al-Asi has called for a "global Islamic movement," and has been intensely criticized for his militant posture against Zionism

and Israel. Saudi Arabia and Egypt had al-Asi removed as Imam of the Washington Islamic Center, and he was denied a visa when he wished to travel to Mecca for the Muslim pilgrimage known as Hajj.

We should experience no difficulty in sponsoring lectures by individuals whose beliefs we find offensive. Such offensiveness does not necessarily depend on political affiliation: Weiss is at the far-left of the political spectrum, while al-Asi locates himself at the far-right. To classify any type of speech as "legitimate" while others are "illegitimate" is to suggest that statements of fact and statements of opinion can (and should) be evaluated by the same standards.

Some would object that we should not allow individuals to preach unvarnished 'hate' (if such a term can even be meaningfully defined), but one could well argue that they pose less of a danger than those who do so while masquerad-

ing as scholars. At least the former individuals make no pretense as to the objective validity of their claims.

We cannot claim to support free speech if we only invite individuals whose views fall within an acceptable continuum — that continuum, after all, is constructed by human beings who despite their best efforts will sometimes render fallacious judgments. We can only claim to defend free speech if we support it as vigorously for individuals whose views we support as we do for those whose positions we criticize.

Should one invite a racist to speak? What about individuals who lie?

Although it is understandable that certain organizations would not extend lecture invitations to individuals whose statements they believe to be socially unacceptable by the values of the times or factually incorrect, such individuals in fact play an indispensable role in our society.

Falsehood is far better lubricant for our mind's engines than truth, for it compels us to remain ever vigilant.

Letters To The Editor, continued

Letters, from Page 4

the means of production (to borrow a phrase) of such free expression are subject to arbitrary seizure by the government. However, any eminent domain action, even for undisputed public purposes, like road construction, could have all these negative effects. It is not likely that we would want to throw away such an important tool for creating obvious and necessary public benefits for an advanced urban society, but it does speak to the need for careful procedures for using such a tool and for fairly compensating those harmed by its use.

What brings us to this parade of horrible scenarios the column adduces is the 2005 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. New London*. This decision was by no means "an expansive new interpretation of 'public use.'" Eminent domain for public purposes, including for economic development purposes, has been supported by the Supreme Court for more than 50 years (see *Berman v. Parker*, 1954, and *Hawaii Housing Authority v. Midkiff*, 1984). In these decisions, the court confirmed that "public purposes" satisfied the "public use" requirement of the Fifth Amendment. The *Kelo* decision also notes that in *Midkiff* the court had "long ago rejected any literal requirement that condemned property be put in to use for the general public."

According to Brian W. Blaesser, a land use attorney with the law firm of Robinson and Cole:

The majority based its conclusions that the city's economic development plan [and the property takings incidental to it — KB] served a public purpose on three principle reasons... (a) the plan was an integrated, comprehensive plan; (b) The plan was thoroughly deliberated prior to adoption; and (c) The private developers were required under contract to carry out the provisions of the plan. (*Planning & Environmental Law*, September, 2005, Vol. 57, No. 9/p.4)

This is the biggest omission in the column: the body engaged in the eminent domain action is not a black box or a *deus ex machina* — it is the locally elected city government, circumscribed by the need to make findings and publicly deliberate a comprehensive plan for redevelopment, with numerous opportunities for citizens and their elected representatives to comment and approve or disapprove the plan. The local government takes these actions subject to the framework and authority granted to it by the state, which is itself subject to the restrictions inscribed in state and federal jurisprudence.

It certainly appropriate for our elected state governments to decide that promotion of economic development, per se, is not a necessary

or sufficient governmental purpose to allow the use of eminent domain in its execution. Many states, prior to *Kelo*, and some new ones since, have taken this tool out of the hands of local authorities trying to turn around an ailing local or neighborhood economy in which the workings of the private market are unlikely to produce an economic revival necessary to prevent further degradation of the lives and property of the residents. But to suggest that the *Kelo* decision and the continuing use of eminent domain by local authorities is some kind of new and revolutionary assault on American rights is not correct.

Kelley Brown MCP '04
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

Suspicion of Unfairness in Sherley Case

I was heartened by MIT's Feb. 16 pledge to address "the effects that race may play in the hiring, advancement and experience of underrepresented minority faculty", to "ensur[e] that our grievance processes are comprehensive, fair and timely", and to "continue to work toward resolution of our differences with Professor Sherley." Yet I remain troubled by MIT's subsequent repeated claims that the grievance process has worked perfectly well in Prof. Sherley's case.

In a 1994 faculty motion about MIT's ill-defined grievance procedures for faculty, Prof. Judith Thomson argued that MIT's ad hoc procedures are unlike "procedures of a kind that are in force in the other major universities across the country" and that "... a faculty member should be entitled, as a matter of right, to present his or her complaint to an elected, standing, Faculty Grievance Committee. ...". Our grievance procedures still do not provide for elected members of the faculty as a standing committee with "institutional memory" that would allow "all like cases [to] be treated alike".

Per Prof. Thomson's unsuccessful motion: "... the wheel that squeaks loud gets the grease. Faculty members with high status, or with friends with high status, squeak loud; faculty members without high status, and without friends with high status, make a barely audible squeak, and it is not for them that ad hoc mechanisms are established. Perhaps MIT's decisions about whether to establish ad hoc mechanisms are always made fairly, but it would be no surprise if a suspicion of unfairness remained. ..."

Lower-status faculty have included many female and minority colleagues. There's at least one case where the tenure evaluation was

marred by sexism and where "friends with high status" (in this case, then-President Paul Gray) had to personally intervene and reverse a tenure denial (*The Tech*, Feb. 2, 1988). I myself know from my own tenure review that it does help to have "friends with high status" and with courage in order to reverse through ad hoc means an unfair tenure denial. In at least one other case, the previously-unsuccessful candidate — this time, a non-female and

non-minority colleague — was awarded tenure in another Engineering unit, and is presently a "faculty member with high status."

A "suspicion of unfairness" may have reasonably arisen in Prof. Sherley's case as follows:

1- The previous Provost, who started handling Prof. Sherley's grievance in January 2005, had strong personal ties with the head of Biological Engineering (BE) and the latter's spouse, another BE faculty — both of whom are implicated in Sherley's complaint.

2- While the grievance was ongoing, the ad hoc grievance committee opened itself to a potential conflict of interest when its chair became Chair of the Faculty as well. The latter is ex officio Chair of the Faculty Policy Committee, he appoints Chairs for the Committee on Graduate Programs and for the Committee on the Undergraduate Programs, he sits on the Committee on Campus Race Relations, and is ex officio member of the Faculty Newsletter Editorial Board.

3- Such choice of the grievance-committee chair as Chair of the Faculty was made by a Nominations Committee headed by a senior BE faculty. At that time, another senior BE faculty was already Associate Chair of the Faculty.

4- The Associate Chair of the Faculty co-signed, along with 19 other BE faculty, a 2/5/07 statement claiming that "race did not play any role" in Prof. Sherley's tenure review.

5- The Provost's Jan. 23, 2006 and Dec. 22, 2006 summaries of the grievance committee's reports contain factual inaccuracies and apparent contradictions. ("Plea for fairness at MIT", *The Tech*, Feb. 6, 2007.)

6- Confidentiality was breached by the Provost on 12/18/06, when he delivered his negative decision to Prof. Sherley in the presence of an observer who had not been previously involved in the grievance review, who was a stranger to Sherley and who was included in the meeting without prior consultation.

7- Since January 2007, the administration has publicly and repeatedly pronounced itself against Prof. Sherley's complaint, thus removing any neutrality on its part.

Any subset of facts 1-7 may well be divorced from any instance of actual unfairness. Yet, their cumulative effect warrants "a suspicion of unfairness" of the sort that the Thomson motion warned against.

The administration should admit that our grievance procedures may not be fair and should start working in truly good faith with Prof. Sherley toward a fair resolution of their differences. Such steps will contribute to increased fairness for all at MIT, including those who usually "make a barely audible squeak".

Michel DeGraff
Associate Professor
Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

From Racial Antipathy and Apathy to Racial Sensitivity

On Feb. 16, 2007, on the apropos occasions of MIT's 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Celebration and the conclusion of Professor James Sherley's 12-day fast, the Institute issued a landmark statement on race issues. For the first time, the terms "racism" and "MIT" were finally written in the same breath into Institutional archives beyond its boilerplate. The statement reaffirmed MIT's responsibility for ensuring that all members of its diverse community feel welcome and

Far more alarming than the promotion of incendiary hate speech or dishonesty is the prospect of students' becoming passive because of their belief that intellectuals should always be trusted. Falsehood is a far better lubricant for our mind's engines than truth, for it compels us to remain ever vigilant. It is preferable for our default response to intellectual output to be one of skepticism, rather than of acceptance.

There are fewer arguments in favor of freedom of speech that are more eloquent or compelling than John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*. He was so convinced of its importance that he set forth the notion of "devil's advocates," whose sole role would be to contrive debate on issues, even those on which a consensus seemed intuitively obvious.

In keeping with Mill's spirit, MIT should grant the right of free speech to anyone who wishes to come to our campus. For if institutions of higher learning, as the ultimate centers of open discourse, fail to extend it to any and all, who can? More importantly, who will?

Ali Wyne is president and founder of the *Forum on American Progress*, a co-sponsor of last Thursday's forum.

respected and that its grievance processes are comprehensive, fair and timely.

"[Sherley] has raised issues that reach beyond any single individual or any single institution," commented President Susan Hockfield.

These political gestures, taken at face value, cast a ray of hope against a bleak backdrop of the quintessentially monolithic, monochromatic or at best apathetic ethos on campus. Just two days earlier, Paul E. Gray '54, former chief executive of the Institute and MIT golden jubilee alumnus and career professor, crashed the protest site personally and openly criticized Sherley's hunger strike as "unwise." Then, chemistry professor Keith A. Nelson vehemently condemned Sherley's comparison of himself to the victims of the civil rights struggles as "sickening", adding that he did not consider any of his colleagues "dishonest or outright evil...however racist [their] motivations".

An editorial of *The Tech*, while acknowledging that an offense might have been committed against Sherley, summarily dismissed Sherley's racism complaints as lacking evidence by mistakenly putting the burden of proof on him, urging that "the Institute owes it to our entire community not to follow the path of appeasement." Another column in *The Tech* later amplified this sentiment, denouncing Sherley's complaints as "race-baiting" and his reference to the civil rights struggles as "racial hyperbole" and vowing not to "kowtow to the fear of being called a racist". Earlier that week, Chairman of The Tech Michael P. McGraw-Herdeg conceded to *The Harvard Crimson* that "there had not been too much student reaction to Sherley's protest".

Why such a gaping disconnect between the principals involved and the rest of the campus? For one thing, most casual bystanders could hardly fathom all the complicated facts of the matter, let alone their legality. In fact, under Massachusetts SJC's established three-step burden-shifting test for cases alleging discrimination², once a complainant establishes a prima facie case of discrimination, the burden shifts to respondents to articulate a reason for their adverse employment decision, before the burden returns to the complainant to show that the respondents' reason is discriminatory. Now, a prima facie case of discrimination has been laid out in "A Plea for Fairness at MIT" dated Feb. 6, 2007. Therefore, the ball is in respondents' court to articulate a legitimate reason for such unfair treatments. As *The Tech* put it, "MIT owes Mr. Sherley a true and open response to all of his allegations." Until then, the burden of proof remains with the respondents instead of Sherley.

According to a Feb. 6, 2007 editorial in Boston University's *Daily Free Press*, "Sherley [claimed] he overheard [then MIT provost Robert Brown] say he did not want to grant lab space to a black man...[Brown] should offer a brief but personal refute to the racist allegations against him....to counter the attacks". So far, Brown has remained tightlipped.

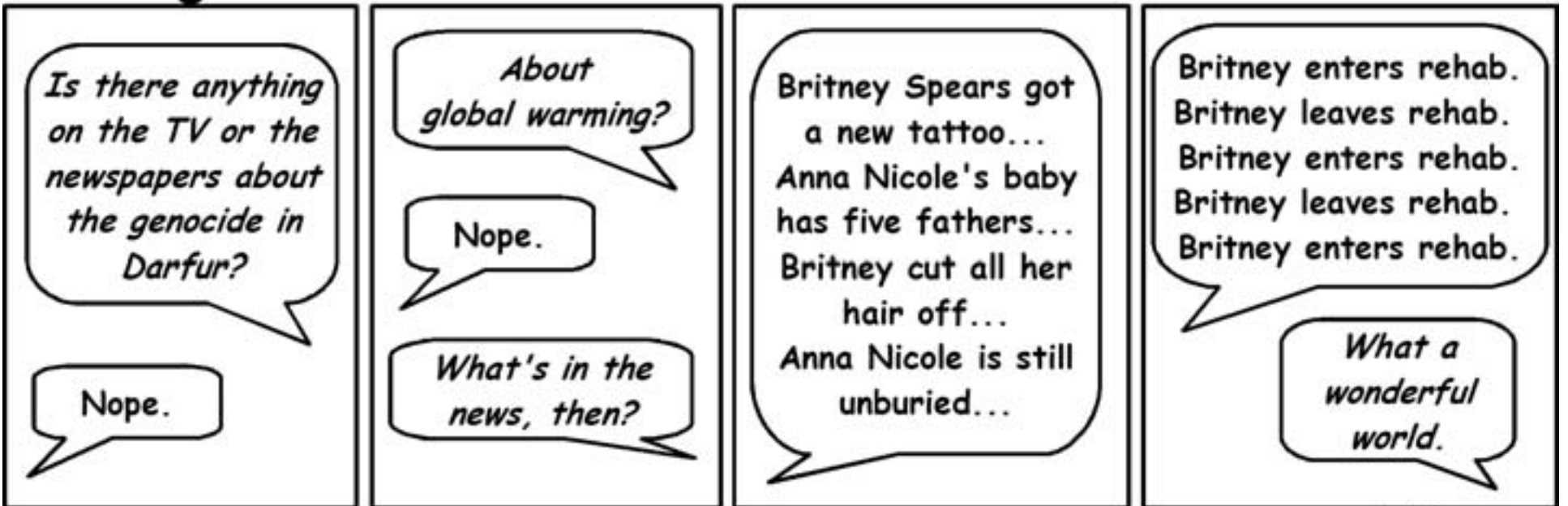
As President Hockfield rightly emphasized that morning, the spirit of the MIT statement goes beyond the MIT administration and Professor Sherley and "reaches into the larger MIT community ... We will only move ahead if we do so together." If there is any validity to her comment, she will have her work cut out to instill, install, and enforce across campus the new spirit of racial sensitivity behind the MIT statement.

Chi-Sang Poon, PhD
Principal Research Scientist
Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences
and Technology



Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco, G

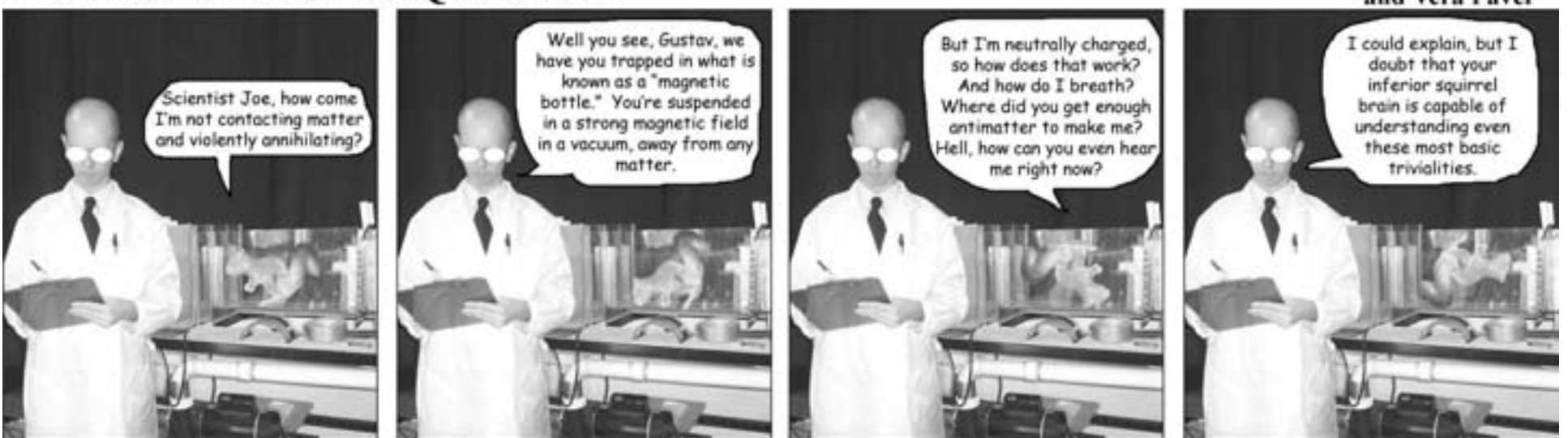


2007-Feb-24

RunBug.com

By Scott Burdick and Vera Pavel

GUSTAV the ANTISQUIRREL



Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcusamer

Requirements for flight attendants ranked by importance

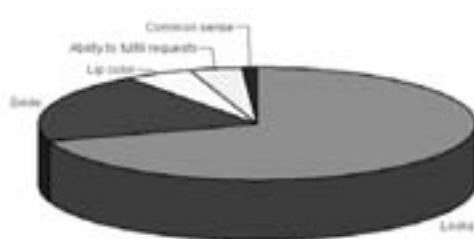


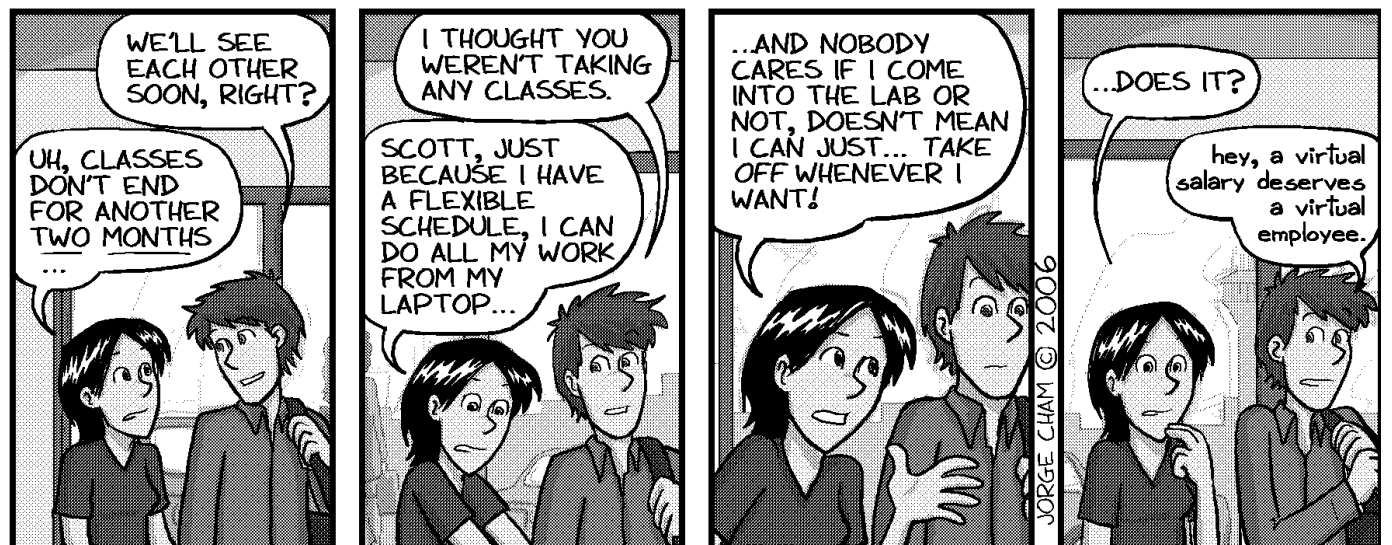
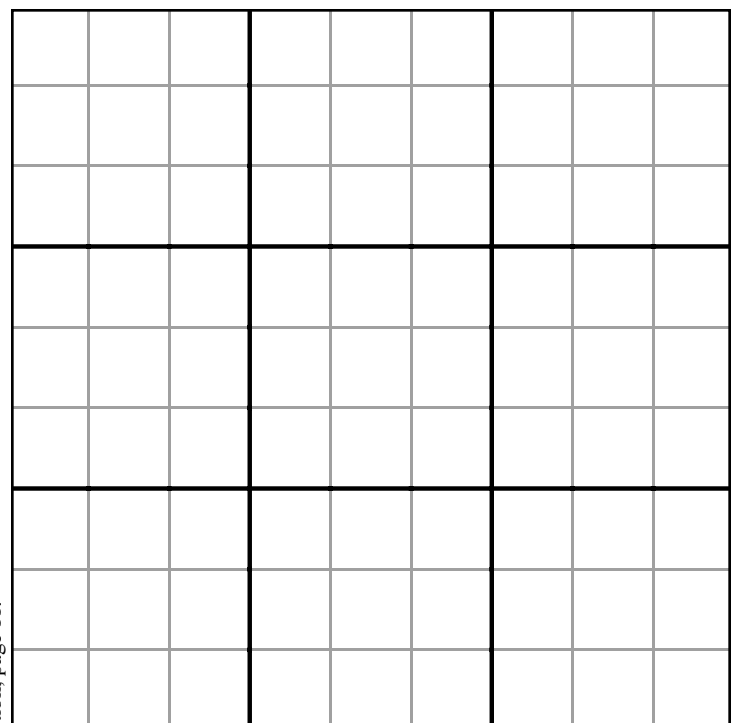
Figure 3. The pie chart summarizes common factors that are evaluated in job interviews for flight attendants. The shown values are representative and were obtained from anonymous surveys to different companies in the industry. The values are accurate as of September 2006.

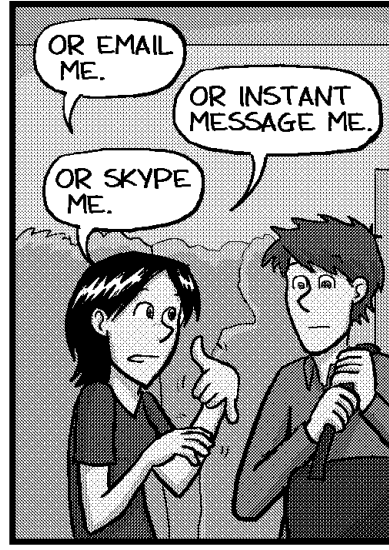
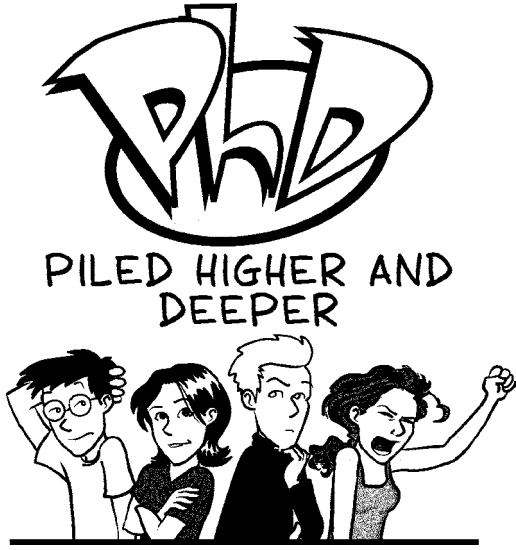
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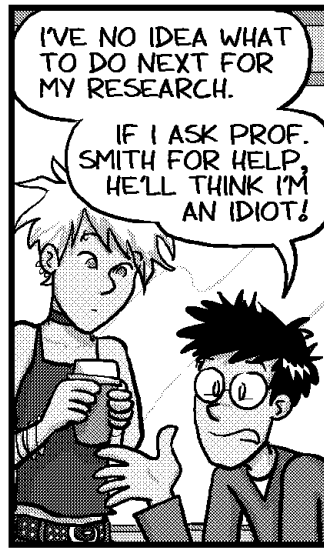
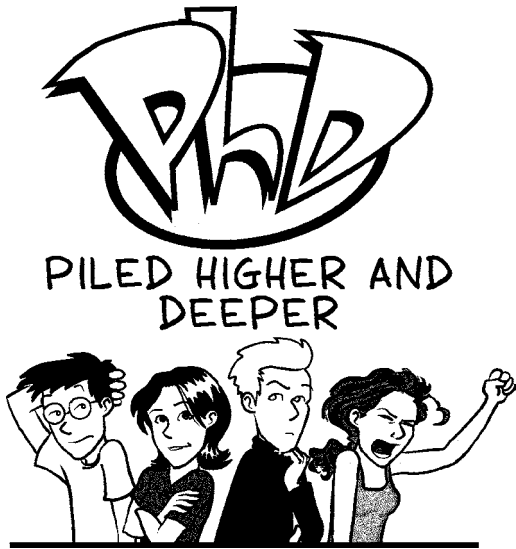
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 11.





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Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

This Friday, March 2nd

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Colin Angle,
MIT '89
iRobot Corp.
Co-Founder & CEO

A Day of Learning and Networking with successful entrepreneurs

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March 2nd @ Student Center
Register by this Wednesday, Feb 28th
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CAMPUS LIFE

Scott's Travels

The Hungry Duck

By James Scott Berdahl

By the end of last week's column I was cold, soaking wet, and alone in the streets of Moscow, faced with the prospect of spending my first night abroad desperately huddled up under some old cardboard in an entryway somewhere. But the good luck I'd had in navigating the public transportation system held up, and I didn't end up spending the night in the streets after all. Not that night, anyway.

As I was attempting to communicate my situation to two frightened old ladies using a soggy map of the city roughly the size of a postage stamp, a voice spoke up in English. "What are you trying to find?" I turned to see a young man about my age dressed in an expensive looking suit and sporting a beat up old traveler's backpack. He spoke with a Spanish accent. "Galena's Flat," I began, thinking of how I might explain my situation even in my own tongue. "Ah, you are lucky," he replied, "that's where I'm headed. Come with me."

I was a bit hesitant to follow a complete stranger through a city I didn't know, but the alternatives were pretty grim. We talked; his name was Oscar and he was Argentinean, yet he was

fluent in both English and Russian, and he possessed a great deal of knowledge about the city. Oscar turned out to be an invaluable companion; not only did he lead me to Galena's Flat, but over the next few days he took me around the city and explained the history of various buildings and places around town. He also taught me how to avoid the corrupt cops lurking around Red Square preying on tourists: look Russian. That is, carry an open beer with you no matter what time of day it is and try not to look like you're enjoying yourself too much. It worked; I saw a lot of tourists getting fined, but the police paid me no attention.

When I wasn't with Oscar though, things got pretty slow. I'd never really thought of what to do once actually traveling. Somehow I thought the exciting times would take care of themselves and I'd just be holding on for the ride, but there I was with long days, no friends, and nothing to do. I walked the boulevards, filled with boisterous teenagers drinking, partying, and just generally having fun at all times of day, but they weren't very open to strangers. So I brought this up with Oscar, and we decided to go out on the town.

We were to meet one night at the Hungry

Duck, one of Moscow's most notorious bars. I found the place alright, but there was no sign of Oscar. A rough crowd hung around outside, so I bought a beer from a nearby kiosk and hung back, trying not to look like I was enjoying myself too much. I wasn't. It didn't take long for a few of them to spot me though, and soon I was surrounded. Things started off friendly enough, but the language barrier drove a rift between us. One of them would say something, to which I would shrug and reply in Russian that I didn't speak Russian. Perhaps they'd already had a few too many, but they didn't seem able to process such a paradoxical statement. After louder, angrier, and more saliva-charged attempts at communicating, they started getting physical, but I was pulled out of their midst just in time by a middle aged woman with more make-up on than clothes.

Her name was Dasha; she spoke English and she was looking for a place to stay ... and maybe for a little bit of money too. I told her I wasn't interested. Even if for some reason I had been, I had no place to stay — Oscar had the only key to the apartment complex in which we were staying. Still, I was grateful she had pulled me from

the mob (which by this point had turned into a full blown brawl), and since I had nowhere to go, I sat on the curb and talked with her for a bit. She talked mostly about her life and growing up in Moscow, and then she paused. She turned to me abruptly and looked deep into my eyes. "What I really want," she said, "is to find somebody who will love me, somebody who will take me from this place. True love?" Her hand inched towards mine on the curb. Mine yarded away. A bottle flew out from the fighting mob and smashed in front of us, breaking the awkward silence. "Well," I said, standing up, "you, uh ... hmm. You never know what tomorrow will bring. As for me, well, I, um ... need to get going." And with that, I was off.

It must have been about 2 a.m. by then, and Oscar still hadn't shown up. Without Oscar and the apartment key, there was nowhere for me to go. I walked through the dark streets across the city to where I was supposed to be staying, and then back to the Hungry Duck. Still nothing. For the second time in a week I was faced with the prospect of sleeping out in the streets of Moscow. This time though, it didn't seem as though luck was on my side.

A Guide to the Joys of Frozen Foods

Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Microwave

By Janet S. Lieberman

It's not that I don't know how to cook. No, I occasionally bust out the pots and pans and make enough ziti or latkes to feed a small army. It's not that I can't — it's just that I don't want to. And over the past three years at MIT, I've learned how to avoid it very well. A bit too well some might say.

Now you might be asking yourself, "Isn't frozen food disgusting?" And you'd be half right. But, the world of frozen food has come a long way. They're not your mother's TV dinners. They're not even your childhood's TV dinners. I well remember the nights of "Ooo, do I go with the kinda funky tasting Szechuan chicken or the kinda funky tasting sesame chicken?" that plagued my youth. The funky tasting ones are still out there, believe you me, but there are also, surprisingly, options which leave you with the feeling of "I've just had real food!" That is, if you can manage to sift through all the other stuff out there. Now, this being a major part of my lifestyle, I've done this sifting, but most people just pick one up from time to time, and don't want that one to suck. So for them, I pass on my leg work.

But first, two disclaimers. First, there are wonderful frozen foods out there which are lovely when heated up in an oven. However, by and large, I know nothing of them, because if I'm going to wait on an oven, I might as well not eat something frozen. Secondly, and far more important, I'm far from a nutritionist. I'm not even going to try to advise on the healthiness or unhealthiness of any of these options. Eat at your own risk.

Pizza Products

Now, I have so much knowledge on frozen food that I'm passing it on in installments. Today's topic is pizza and things made for the general purpose of resembling pizza in some incarnation. Involving grain, some sort of vegetable/fruit (blast you tomatoes and your category escaping ways!), and dairy, pizza's a classic way to pretend that you've had a balanced meal out of only one dish. But sometimes you're too lazy to wait for the delivery guy.

My fall back for pizza is always Mama Celeste's personal pizzas. They're not very good, but they're not bad either; the prep is simple, they taste OK, and they somehow avoid that "gets old fast" taste which tends to plague frozen foods. Probably my favorite pizza option is Stouffer's French Bread Pizzas, but they require using the oven, so I don't really use them that often, as that's against the whole spirit of the thing (although the fact that I do sometimes makes them a testament to their quality). I'll be honest — I haven't tried Elio's in the past five years or so because they tasted so much like cardboard when I was younger that I just can't bring myself to do that. Perhaps they've learned and grown. Looking at the pictures on the box, I doubt it.

The Pepperoni Pizza Hot Pockets are my favorite Hot Pockets — they're pretty good as that kind of thing goes, but be careful not to leave them in the freezer too long, because then the crust dries out. The issue of letting the crust dry out also holds with Tostino's pizza rolls, which, by the way, are better than the Hot Pocket Pizza Minis. I recently tried Smart One's personal pizzas — they're okay, but somewhat unsuccessfully try to be more high class than they actually are, with fancy concepts such as "cheese blends." When it comes down to it, Mama Celeste's are cheaper and taste better. Up until a few years ago, Bagel Bites only really came out right in the oven, but they recently added crisper trays to their packaging, and so now they come out crispy even from the microwave (or, you know, reasonably so).

I've found two general rules about microwave pizza. One is that toppings don't seem to matter — within a brand, the cheese will be just as good as the pepperoni will be just as good as the sausage will be just as good as the supreme. The second is that the silver crisper tray is key. They're slowly all starting to have it, but I've never had something turn out really good that didn't have one.

That's it for pizza — tune in next week for the ever ambiguous category of full-meals-in-trays!

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Science, Faith and Technology



The Language of God
A Believer Looks at the Human Genome

Thursday, March 1
7:30 PM, Stata Center 32-123

Francis Collins
Author—*The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*
Head—National Human Genome Research Institute

Belligerents or Brothers?
Are Science and Christian Faith at Odds?

Friday, March 2
7:30 PM, Kresge Auditorium

Ian Hutchinson
Head—Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering, MIT

Living Machines
Can Robots Become Human?

Saturday, March 3
7:00 PM, Kresge Auditorium

Rodney Brooks
Director—Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MIT

Rosalind Picard
Founder and Director—Affective Computing Research Group, MIT

Afternoon Events

Telling the Truth
In the Business World

Thursday, March 1
12:00, E51-345

John Brandon
Long-term Silicon Valley Executive

Faith, Academia, and the Developing World: Finding Linkages

Saturday, March 3
12:00, 3-270

Annette Kim
Assistant Professor—Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

Troy Van Voorhis
Assistant Professor—Department of Chemistry, MIT



BU Students Stranded Outside After Apartment Fire

Fire, from Page 1

Pagano, 20.

In Mashpee, at the home where McCuish grew up, her family received a steady stream of calls and visits from her friends, former teachers, and coaches, and others offering condolences.

Michaela McCuish described her younger sister as "a happy, lovable girl who enjoyed playing soccer and basketball." Rhiannon, the second-oldest of three sisters, graduated from Mashpee High School in 2004 and enrolled at Boston University the same year as a psychology major. In addition to her studies, Rhiannon recently joined the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Boston, mentoring a girl with the same name as her older sister.

"Her singing, that's what put a smile on my face," Michaela said of her sister. "She loved to sing Ashlee Simpson [songs] and would always dance this goofy style when she did. I'm very surprised and it's unbelievable that she's gone."

A woman who answered the phone at an address listed for Adelipour in Great Neck, N.Y., declined to comment, saying the family was in no condition to speak.

"He was one of those people who always made you smile," said Elisia Krafchin, a 21-year-old senior who said Adelipour, a senior in the BU School of Management, was a close friend.

Kenneth Elmore, the dean of students at Boston University, confirmed that two BU students had died in the fire. "This is like a death in the family," he said. "We've lost two students and all their potential. Young people dying, it's just devastating."

He said that he had not yet spoken to the families, adding that the university would offer counseling services to students.

According to BU's website, university chaplains will be on hand

this afternoon in Robinson Chapel for anyone who would like to talk about the tragedy or remember the victims.

A crew of seven NStar employees who had been at the complex for hours, trying to repair an underground cable line, were working in a manhole when they saw the fire, said Caroline Allen, a spokeswoman for NStar. They ran to the building and began banging on the doors.

Students living in the building said they could hear them screaming from outside, "There's a fire! There's a fire! Get out! Get out."

People scrambled out of the building screaming, most in pajamas, several of them barefoot, and some of the men shirtless. They gathered outside in the cold, and watched flames shoot out of the windows of unit 6 at 21 Aberdeen St., where Adelipour lived with two other men.

About 50 firefighters arrived at 19 and 21 Aberdeen St. and worked for an hour to extinguish the flames, said Stephen MacDonald, spokesman for the city's fire department. He estimated the damage at \$1,000,000.

"Through the process of elimination we're trying to figure out how it started," he said.

Allen, the NStar spokeswoman, said the company had received no information on whether the fire department is investigating the power outage as a possible cause of the fire. The crew was able to restore power to the building by 10 a.m. It was unclear what caused the outage.

"We replaced a section of cable that had failed," she said. She did not know what made it fail. "We have a very large underground system, from time to time we do experience problems." She said NStar crew members were interviewed at the scene by the Boston Fire Department. "There was no current running into the building," she said.

"We're just very happy that [the employees] were there and able to

help get people out," said John Connelly, an NStar spokesman. "Hopefully they helped save some lives."

The three victims were found in two bedrooms in the back of the apartment, MacDonald said. Neighbors said a small party had taken place in the apartment the night before. The party was loud, but not rowdy. Neighbors said that even though there was no power, they could hear music playing at about 2 a.m.

Yesterday afternoon, Pierre L. Wolfe, the manager of the property, shook his head as he walked through the charred apartment, where nearly everything had been burned beyond recognition, except a bed and a dresser in a bedroom. The walls were blackened and the floors were covered in a thick layer of soot and ash. "It's totally destroyed," Wolfe said, almost in a whisper.

Adelipour had been living in the three-bedroom apartment with two other Boston University students since September, said the owner of the unit, who asked not to be identified. The men had never caused problems at the apartment, which had a smoke detector, a carbon monoxide detector, and a fire escape, the owner said.

"They were all wonderful fellows, very responsible," the owner said. "It's a great tragedy." Most of the tenants in the two apartments at 19 and 21 Aberdeen St., which together hold 18 units, were from Boston University, but some attended Emmanuel College and other schools, said Colin Riley, spokesman for Boston University. The school had no oversight over the units.

The city's Inspectional Services Department had received no complaints other than individual reports of infestation by bed bugs inside the building and by rodents outside, said Lisa Timberlake, spokeswoman for the department.

Steve Barr, a trustee of the 7-21 Aberdeen Condo Association, said

the association sets rules and regulations concerning safety at the building.

"We're going to have to make a ton of decisions now," he said. "There will be massive insurance claims."

Students displaced by the fire were taken to the Boston University Sargent Activities Center, where they waited for their parents or word from officials that it was safe to return to the buildings.

Several hours after the fire, some parents rushed into the center, looking for their children. Fischer, a se-

nior at Boston University majoring in advertising communications, began crying when she saw her mother, who drove from Pennsylvania yesterday.

Fischer's roommate, Charlotte Morris, 21, had been staying at a friend's house for the night when Fischer called her in the morning to tell her about the fire. Morris rushed home, and barged through a police line to get to the apartment, but had to wait outside as firefighters doused the flames.

"I've never been so cold in my life," she said.

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Solution to Sudoku
from page 6

Solution to Crossword
from page 7

Speakers Express Views On Social Justice

Forum, from Page 1

"The organizers chose Weiss without consulting any element of the campus Jewish community. Furthermore, when we [the Jewish community] repeatedly expressed our concerns, all of the sponsors, including the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, refused to take measures to rectify the problem."

Aziz said that before advertising the forum, "We [SJC] made it a point to ask Hillel and MIT Students for Israel for sponsorship, we did speak in person, and agreed to change the title for the event to "... A Jewish View ..."

The selection of speakers garnered the contempt of some members of the Muslim community as well. Abdulaziz Albahar '10 said, "I know that some of my Saudi Arabian friends boycotted the event because of the Imam's [anti-Saudi] views."

Although the format of the forum was supposed to be two rounds of speeches followed by a question and answer session, the Rabbi's first speech went over time and the speeches were cut short to one round.

Weiss primarily discussed how he was "against Zionism" and how he believes in "the peaceful dismantling of the Israeli state."

Stiebel described Weiss' speech as "disgusting rhetoric." He said, "It was what I expected: at every chance he [Weiss] got he bashed Israel."

al-Asi mostly discussed social justice in the lecture part. He said that "the common denominator among religions is justice" and that if the prophets were alive today, "they would be against Zionism and Imperialism."

Sanusi A. Dantata '07 said that it seemed as if al-Asi "came to talk about something different from what he said."

Issues addressed in the question and answer session included Weiss' denial of the Holocaust, the US and Israel's involvement in Darfur, and the dismantlement of the state of Israel.

Faizan Ahmed '08 said the question answer session "wasn't productive" because the speakers provided "segmented answers and didn't answer the questions."

Despite the speakers' anti-Zionist biases, "some of their theses regarding social justice came through," said Nadeem Mazen G. "If we judge them by the content of their arguments, we find that they are very well-informed."

"There's always an excuse for either side to look past the topic and come up with salient excuses. One side will always boycott. But what's important is will we continue engaging in dialogue, or will both sides walk away from the table?" Mazen said.

According to Wyne, "Understanding between different religious communities and, to be sure, all types of communities is best achieved through discussion. While we recognize that the Rabbi's and Imam's views are highly controversial, we were gratified to see that dozens of individuals stayed inside or right outside of the lecture hall either to converse with one of the two speakers or to talk amongst themselves. It was especially encouraging for us to see Jewish and Muslim students engaging in a post-event dialogue."

The Dean's Office for SHASS was unavailable for comment about the event.

MeiHsin Cheng contributed in the reporting of this article.



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

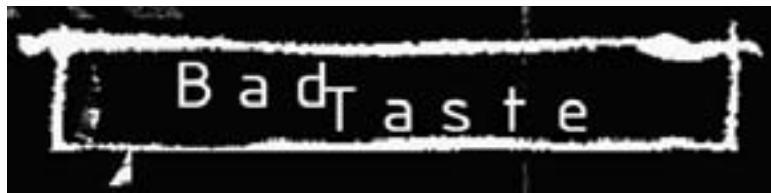
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Film's Look at Islamic Militancy Causes Controversy

Film, from Page 1

York University recently, it found that the distributors of *Obsession* were requiring those in attendance to register at *IsraelActivism.com*, and that digital pictures of the events be sent to Hasbara Fellowships, a group set up to counter anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses.

"If people have to give their names over to Hasbara Fellowships at the door, that doesn't have the effect of stimulating open dialogue," said Jordan J. Dunn, president of the Middle East Dialogue Group of New York University, which mixes Jews and Muslims. "Rather, it intimidates people and stifles dissent."

The documentary's proponents say it provides an unvarnished look at Islamic militancy. "It's an urgent issue that is widely avoided by academia," argued Michael Abdurakhmanov, the Hillel president at Pace.

Its critics call it incendiary. Norah Sarsour, a Palestinian-American student at UCLA, said it was disheartening to see "a film like this that takes the people who have hijacked

the religion and focuses on them."

Certainly it is a new element in the bitter campus battles over the Middle East that have encompassed everything from the content and teaching of Middle East studies to disputes over art exhibitions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to debates over free speech.

"The situation in the Middle East has been a major issue on campus for decades, but the heat has noticeably turned up lately," said Greg Lukianoff, the president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

At San Francisco State University, for example, College Republicans stomped on copies of the Hamas and Hezbollah flags last October at an "antiterrorism" rally. At the University of California, Irvine, the Muslim Student Union drew criticism last year for a "Holocaust in the Holy Land" program about Israel.

Brandeis University officials pulled an exhibition of Palestinian children's drawings, including some of bloodied Palestinian children, designed to bring the Palestinian viewpoint to the campus, half of whose

students are Jewish.

Three years ago a video produced by a pro-Israeli group featuring Jewish students' complaints of intimidation by Middle East studies professors at Columbia set off a campus-wide debate over freedom of speech and academic freedom, prompting an investigation that found some fault by one professor but "no evidence of any statements made by the faculty that could reasonably be construed as anti-Semitic."

Into this milieu stepped the producer of *Obsession*, Raphael Shore, a 45-year-old Canadian who lives in Israel, with the documentary. It features scenes like the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Muslim children being encouraged to become suicide bombers, interspersed with those of Nazi rallies.

The film was directed by Wayne Kopping of South Africa, who had worked with Mr. Shore previously on a documentary about the failure of the Oslo peace efforts in the Middle East. Mr. Shore said in a recent interview that they had not set out to make a film for college students but

to spur action against Islamic terrorism. "We want to spread this message to all people that will stand up and make a difference in combating this threat," he said.

When no traditional film distributors picked it up, he said, colleges were an obvious outlet — it was screened on 30 campuses last semester — along with DVD sales on the Internet (*ObsessionTheMovie.com*), and showings at synagogues and other locales, including conservative ones like the Heritage Foundation in Washington. There were also repeated broadcasts of abbreviated versions or excerpts on Fox News in November and again this month, and on other media outlets like CNN Headline News.

"College students have the power with their energy, resources, time and interest to make a difference, often more than other individuals," Mr. Shore said.

He hired a campus coordinator, Karyn Leffel, who works out of the New York City office of the Hasbara Fellowships program, which aims to train students "to be effective pro-Israel activists on their campuses."

"*Obsession* is so important because it shows what's happening in Israel is not happening in a vacuum," said Elliot Mathias, director of the Hasbara Fellowships program, "and that it affects all American students on campuses, not just Jewish students."

Mr. Shore said that despite the collaboration with Hasbara, the goal was to draw a wide audience.

"The evangelical Christians and the Jews tend to be the softest market, the most receptive to the message of the film, so we have done lots with those groups," he said. "But we are trying very hard to expand beyond those groups, because we specifically don't want it to be seen as a film that has that connection."

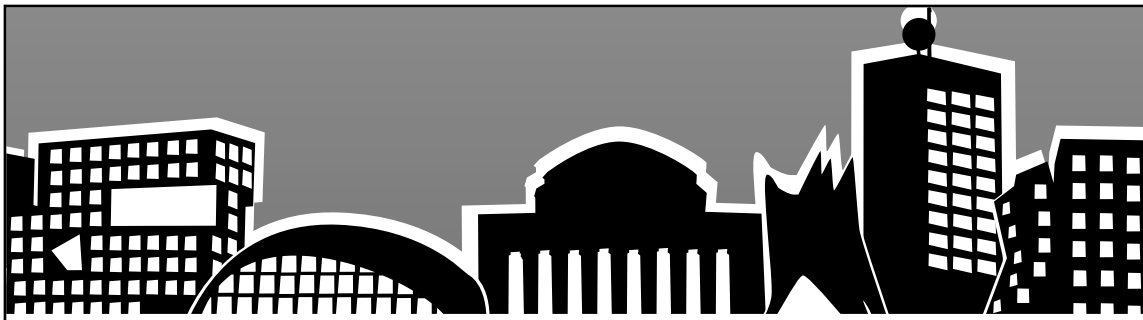
Mr. Shore describes his film as nonpartisan and balanced, and many viewers agree with him. Traci Ciepiela, who teaches criminal justice at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs and has a screening scheduled this week, says she learned from the film and did not think that it was unfair or inflammatory.

Physicians for Human Rights



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DePauw's Delta Zeta Sorority Evicts Less Attractive Members

Sorority, from Page 1

and tears on this rural campus of 2,400 students, 50 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

The mass eviction battered the self-esteem of many of the former sorority members, and some withdrew from classes in depression. There have been student protests, outraged letters from alumni and parents, and a faculty petition calling the sorority's action unethical.

DePauw's president, Robert G. Bottoms, issued a two-page reprimand letter to the sorority. In an interview in his office, Bottoms said he had been stunned by the sorority's insensitivity.

"I had no hint they were going to disrupt the chapter with a membership reduction of this proportion in the middle of the year," he said. "It's been very upsetting."

The president of Delta Zeta, which has its headquarters in Oxford, Ohio, and its other national officers declined to be interviewed. Responding by e-mail to questions, Cynthia Winslow Menges, the executive director, said the sorority had not evicted the 23 women, even though the national officers sent those women form letters which said: "The membership review team has recommended you for alumna status. Chapter members receiving alumnae status should plan to relocate from the chapter house no later than Jan. 29, 2007."

Menges asserted that the women themselves had, in effect, made their own decisions to leave by demonstrating a lack of commitment to meet recruitment goals. The sorority paid each woman who left \$300 to cover the difference between sorority and campus housing.

The sorority "is saddened that the isolated incident at DePauw has been mischaracterized," Menges wrote.

Asked for clarification, the sorority's public relations representative e-mailed a statement saying its actions were aimed at the "enrichment of student life at DePauw."

This is not the first time that the DePauw chapter of Delta Zeta has stirred controversy. In 1982, it attracted national attention when a black student was not allowed to join, provoking accusations of racial discrimination.

Earlier this month, an Alabama lawyer and several other DePauw alumni who graduated in 1970 described in a letter to The DePauw, the student newspaper, how Delta Zeta's national leadership had tried, unsuccessfully, to block a young woman with a black father and a white mother from joining its DePauw chapter in 1967.

Despite those incidents, the chapter appears to have been home to a diverse community over the years, partly because it has attracted brainy women, including many science and math majors, as well as talented disabled women, without focusing as exclusively as some sororities on potential recruits' sex appeal, former sorority members said.

"I had a sister I could go to a bar with if I had boy problems," said Erin Swisshelm, a junior biochemistry major who withdrew from the sorority in October. "I had a sister I could talk about religion with. I had a sister I could be nerdy about science with. That's why I liked Delta Zeta, because I had all these amazing women around me."

But over the years DePauw students had attached a negative stereotype to the chapter, as evidenced by the survey that Pam Proppom, a psychology professor, conducts each year in her class.

That image had hurt recruitment, and the national officers had repeatedly warned the chapter that unless its membership increased, the chap-

ter could close.

At the start of the fall term the national office was especially determined to raise recruitment because 2009 is the 100th anniversary of the DePauw chapter's founding. In September, Menges and Kathi Heatherly, a national vice president of the sorority, visited the chapter to announce a reorganization plan they said would include an interview with each woman about her commitment. The women were urged to look their best for the interviews.

The tone left four women so unsettled that they withdrew from the chapter almost immediately.

Robin Lamkin, a junior who is an editor at The DePauw and was one of the 23 women evicted from the house, said many of her sisters bought new outfits and modeled them for each other before the interviews. Many women declared their willingness to recruit diligently, Lamkin said.

A few days after the interviews, national representatives took over the house to hold a recruiting event. They asked most members to stay upstairs in their rooms. To welcome freshmen downstairs, they assembled a meet-and-greet team that included several of the women eventually asked to stay in the sorority, along with some slender women invited from Delta Zeta's Indiana University chapter, Holloway said.

"They had these unassuming freshman girls downstairs with these plastic women from Indiana University, and 25 of my sisters hiding upstairs," she said. "It was so fake, so completely dehumanized. I said, 'This calls for a little joke.'"

Holloway put on an outlandish wig and some John Lennon rose-colored glasses, burst through the front door during the recruitment event, and skipped around singing "Ooooh! Delta Zeta!" and other chants.

The face of one of the national representatives, she recalled, "was like I'd run over her puppy with my car."

The national representatives announced their decisions in the form letters, delivered on Dec. 2, which said that Delta Zeta intended to increase membership to 95 by the 2009 anniversary, and that it would recruit using a "core group of women."

Elizabeth Haneline, a senior computer science major who was among those evicted, returned to the house from campus that afternoon and found some women in tears. Even the chapter's very active president had been kicked out, Haneline said, while "other women who had done almost nothing for the chapter were asked to stay."

Swisshelm said she overheard one woman seek to reassure a friend: "I think you're plenty pretty, no matter what nationals say," the woman said.

Six of the 12 women who were asked to stay left the sorority, including Joanna Kieschnick, a sophomore majoring in English literature. "They said, 'You're not good enough' to so many people who have put their heart and soul into this chapter that I can't stay," she said.

In the months since, Cynthia Babington, DePauw's dean of students, has fielded angry calls from parents, she said. Robert Hershberger, chairman of the modern languages department, circulated the faculty petition; 55 professors signed it.

"We were especially troubled that the women they expelled were less about image and more about academic achievement and social service," Hershberger said.

During rush activities earlier this month, 11 first-year students accepted invitations to join Delta Zeta, but only three have since sought membership.



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The Tech

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W20-483

SPORTS

In Fencing's First Postseason Meet Women Place Second, Men Third

By Hareem Ahmad

TEAM MEMBER

In their first post-NCAA season competition of the year, the MIT women's and men's fencing teams fought their way to victory at the New England Fencing Championships, held Saturday at the Johnson Indoor Track. The women took second place, while the men earned third in a competition against 11 other schools.

The day started off with the Women's Team Championships, which featured foil, sabre, and épée competing concurrently. Though the Tech women were supposed to be in the midst of a rebuilding year after losing so many seniors, Captain Nancy Hua '07 led the team to a strong finish.

The Engineers faced their stiffest opposition from Brandeis University, who won first place, but defeated perennial powerhouses like Boston College and Tufts University.

Based on their performance in the team championships, Hua, Cordelia S. Link '10, Lindley C. Graham '10, and Stephanie H. Shin '10 all qualified for the Women's Individual Championships. Hua and Link placed second and third in foil, respectively, and Shin placed sixth in épée.

The male Engineers, who had proudly cheered for their women's team all day, were nearly as successful in the Men's Team Championships. Captained by épéeist Trevor T. Chang '07, they held their own against all but two of the twelve teams present — Brandeis and BC.

Set back by injuries to two of their top fencers, foilist Spencer R. Sugimoto '08 and sabrist Igor Kopylov '09, the MIT men's team refused to lose heart. After grueling competition, they fenced their way to third place, marking a very strong performance for the Engineers.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Joanna W. Tong '08, an épéeist, performs a flèche maneuver to score a bout-winning touch at the New England Championships on Saturday.

The team also qualified Chang, Sugimoto, Kopylov, Sebastian Castro '08, Namit Setia '07, and Gabriel A. Chan '09 for the individual championships.

Chang led the Engineers with a second-place victory in men's épée, while Sugimoto, hampered by an ankle injury sustained early in the team

competition, recorded an impressive third-place finish in men's foil. Setia won fourth place in sabre, followed closely by Kopylov at sixth place, though he could not finish competing in the later rounds due to an injury.

Both fencing teams will compete in the season-ending Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships this weekend in Princeton, NJ.

Volleyball Beats Lasell, Now 8-0 in NECVA Pamidimukkala Leads MIT With .471 Hitting Percentage, Tech Wins in Four Games

By Mindy Brauer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

In a non-conference men's volleyball match last Tuesday night, nationally-ranked No. 10 MIT registered a 30-21, 30-16, 23-30, 30-21 victory over Lasell College.

Both squads traded points to open the match before MIT (16-1) went up, 7-5. Lasell (7-9) quickly tied the game, but the Engineers regained the advantage on a service error. The Lasers generated a three-point spurt that resulted in their first lead of the night at 10-8. MIT responded with four consecutive points to get ahead for good.

Lasell remained within striking distance through the middle part of the game, at one point trailing 21-19. A strike by T. Scott Pollom '09 sparked a 7-0 run by the Engineers that helped propel them to a 30-21 victory.

In the second game, MIT established an early edge (4-3) that it did not relinquish. The Lasers continued to attack despite facing a 17-11 deficit, picking up three points in a row after a timeout to cut the margin in half. The Engineers countered by outscoring the Lasers, 13-2, to seal the win.

Lasell quickly went ahead, 6-4,

in the third game and eventually extended its lead to 14-9. Both teams alternated scoring until MIT picked up three consecutive points to close the gap to 18-16. With the score at 22-20, a service error generated a five-point run for the Lasers, and the Engineers could not overcome the deficit and lost 23-30.

The Lasers held a 3-1 edge in the final game, but MIT rattled off four points in a row to take the lead. The game was closely played until the Engineers' margin grew to 16-11. After a Lasell timeout, the Lasers responded by scoring six out of the next eight points to cut the deficit to one (18-17).

Each squad scored a pair of points to maintain the one-point difference. A service error helped MIT extend its lead to 23-19, which prompted another timeout by Lasell. The Lasers picked up a point following the break, but strong serving by Eric R. Reuland '10 powered the Engineers to match point. Lasell broke up the run, but Pollom's strike sealed the match for MIT.

Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 paced the Engineers with 19 kills, a .471 hitting percentage, and 13 digs. Reuland recorded 11 kills and two aces. Pollom turned in a solid performance with 14 kills, a .391 hitting percentage, five

blocks, and two aces. Michael Demyttenaere '10 registered nine kills and seven blocks while Ryan G. Dean '08 contributed 12 digs. Philip M. Rogoz '10 tallied 50 assists, six blocks, and two aces.

Serge Melnik led Lasell with 16 kills and one ace as Scott Penna notched 13 digs, 11 kills, and three blocks. Bryan Bobo posted 39 assists and three blocks while Joe Lipski added 14 digs.

Next up for MIT will be a 7:00 p.m. road match at Elms College tomorrow night.

Hockey Advances To Finals By Defeating Western Connecticut

By Jeff Lemieux

SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Nicholas R. LaBounty '09 scored the winning goal just 2:32 into the contest and Timothy E.

Studley '07 helped pad the lead with two tallies of his own, as the Engineers blanked Western Connecticut State University 4-0 in Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association (NECHA) Conference A semi-final action on Saturday evening.

The victory advanced MIT to the conference final on Sunday night against UMass-Amherst.

MIT (13-5-1) completed the season sweep over Western Connecticut (8-15-2); the Engineers defeated the Colonials 11-1 earlier in the campaign.

LaBounty, who leads the team in points with 36 on 21 goals and 15 assists, bagged the winner just over two and half minutes into the game off a feed from defenseman Nicholas J. Maietta '07.

The remainder of the first period belonged to the goaltenders — in particular Western Connecticut's Steve Grota, whose net was bar-

raged with shots from every angle. By game's end, the Cardinal and Gray had pounded the Colonials' net with 62 shots — 58 of which Grota managed to keep out.

Brian A. LaCrosse '07 gave Tech a bit of insurance at 6:49 of the second period, as he extended the lead to 2-0 after converting a feed from William G. Near '10.

Studley then notched his first with under three minutes remaining in the middle period to stretch the margin to 3-0. LaCrosse and Dustin P. Kendrick '10 provided the helpers. Michael C. Kozlowski '08 fed Studley for his second midway through the third to seal the victory.

Amazingly, all four Tech goals were scored at even-strength, as neither team managed to take advantage of several power play opportunities. MIT finished 0-for-8 with the extra skater, while Western Connecticut was 0-for-5.

Thomas A. Hopkins '07 picked up the win in net for the Engineers, earning his third shutout of the season and lowering his goals-against-average to a sparkling 2.05. Grota took the loss for the Colonials, despite his 58-save performance.

Men's Gymnastics Loses Springfield Dual Despite Rasin's Meet-Best 45.800

By Jeff Lemieux

SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Boris Rasin '09 won Saturday's all-around competition with a score of 45.800 to lead the men's gymnastics team to a season-high point total of 181.700, but MIT was still unable to overcome Springfield College. The Pride nipped Tech with a tally of 182.950. The University of Vermont's club team participated in the competition as well, finishing with 121.35 points.

The Engineers dropped to 0-3 in dual meet action with the loss, while the Pride improved to 1-2 with the victory.

Rasin picked up the top spot in the all-around by edging out Springfield sophomore Andy Kelly, who finished the afternoon with a

45.250. Thomas S. Caldwell '09 (45.050), Bradley J. Sutton '07 (44.300), and Joshua S. Coblenz '08 (42.850) finished 3-4-5, respectively, to give the Engineers four of the top five competitors in the meet.

Sutton notched Tech's top score of the afternoon with an 8.600 on the parallel bars, while Rasin was MIT's best in floor exercise (8.200) and still rings (8.500). Meanwhile, Caldwell took top honors among all gymnasts on the high bar (7.650) and the pommel horse (8.100). Matthew K. Heine '08 rounded out the Engineers' balanced performance by nabbing their highest tally in the vault with a score of 7.350.

The Engineers return to action on Sunday at the New England Championships, which will be hosted by the Pride at 2:00 p.m.



JINGYI LIU—THE TECH

Sophia L. Harrison '08 competes on the balance beam. MIT faced Springfield College (losing 184.625 - 182.775) and Boston University's club team (winning 182.775 - 150.975) this weekend.

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