Prof. Begins Hunger Strike, Says Racism Cost Him His Tenure

By Joyce Kwan

An African-American associate professor began a hunger strike yesterday outside of the provost’s office, protesting what he claims were racist motives behind the denial of his tenure. Biological Engineering Associate Professor James L. Sherley first threatened the strike on Dec. 19, 2006 in a letter he titled: “A plea to end racism at MIT.” The letter prompted Provost L. Rafael Reif to announce plans to create a committee investigating minority hiring practices.

Sherley plans to station outside Provost L. Rafael Reif’s office, 3–208, on weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon — ingesting only water, electrolytes, and vitamins supplements — until his demands are met. Sherley, in a second letter sent out via e-mail to members of the MIT community, listed three specific demands. Reif must resign, Sherley’s tenure must be granted immediately, and his wife, Aisha, who also works at MIT, be granted tenure. Sherley also called for MIT to “commit resources.”

No. of Applicants Increases

The number of applicants to MIT increased across the board this year, with regular applications rising 9 percent, following a 13 percent jump in early applicants in the fall. A total of 12,440 applications were received during the current admissions cycle; 11,373 applied last year.

Media attention to the debate surrounding questions of race, including the admission of minorities to the university, has been increasing in recent years. The MIT application cycle runs from Oct. 1 to Dec. 1. Applications must be received by Dec. 1 to be considered.

In Short

- The MIT vs. Caltech Blood Battle, the blood drive sponsored by ARCTAN, will be held from Feb. 12–15 in La Sala in the Student Center. The winner of the blood drive will be the school to collect the most blood units, adjusted for size of the school. For more information, visit http://wbe. mit.edu/blood-drive. Free pizza will be given to all donors.
- The annual town gown meeting reviewing reports from MIT, Harvard University, and Lesley University will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Citywide Senior Center located at 806 Mass. Ave. The reports describe current activities for the institutions, including data about student population, housing, and future construction plans. The meeting is open to the public and time will be available for questions and comments.
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Underdogs Put Up Fight to Win 6.370

MIT’s Artificial Intelligence Competition Won by Low-Seed Tram of Seniors

By Curt Fischer

The excitement was palpable but the action was strictly virtual in Kresge Auditorium, the scene of the 6.370 Tournament. Their team, “My Other Programming Language is Scheme,” beat “Battletoads” 6 to 3.

The tournament, which was held in Kresge Auditorium, was the final round of the 6.370 Artificial Intelligence Competition. The competition is open to students of all majors and is held annually.

The team consisted of Daniel M. Kane ’07, Griffin Chronis ’07, and Rosenfield ’08, and Griffin Chronis (composed of Daniel M. Kane ’07, Griffin Chronis ’08, and Adam K. Roth ’07) managed to win in the best-of-three final match against runner up Battletoads, who had previously defeated the team twice.

Students Learn to Be ‘Charming’

MIT Charm School Produces Yet Another Round of Well-Mannered Grads

By Manisha Padi

MIT’s Charm School is a sight to behold. Students sit around tables set with plates and wine glasses, laying napkins in their laps, and clusters of young men (and some women) cram around a small mirror, untwisting and tucking their ties. Charm School students have a variety of classes to choose from, and each class has its own theme and purposes.

For additional statistics, see the table on page 17.

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The Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, 26°F (-3°C)
Tonight: Mostly clear, 1°F (-17°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 24°F (-4°C)

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Classes Start Today

MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper

Volume 127, Number 1
Tuesday, February 6, 2007
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Once-Maligned Colts Defense Shuts Bear Down
By Judy Battista
The New York Times

In the week before the AFC championship game two weeks ago, Indianapolis Colts Coach Tony Dungy joked that one outstanding defensive performance might be considered an accident, and two might be considered a trend.

Does a fourth mean dominance?

It does mean a Super Bowl title for the Colts, who were supposed to have a fine defense during the run and end up with a championship defense that shut down all four playoff opponents. That defense has allowed only 12 points in the last five games and forced five turnovers, helping the Colts to a 29-17 victory on Sunday night.

Little more than a month ago, such a turnaround seemed like a pipe dream from an injury-plagued team as the Colts’ weak link.

And it was hard to imagine that the Colts would play better defense than the Bears, whose franchise identity is built on punishing hits, especially on the slower track of a rain-soaked field like the one on which the Super Bowl was played Sunday night.

After Major Flooding, Indonesia Braces For Disease
By Seth Mydans
The New York Times

Much of the capital city was underwater on Tuesday, and the authorities warned of the possible spread of disease after torrential rains, overflowing rivers, and clogged sewers brought widespread flooding over Indonesia.

At least 29 people were reported to have died from drowning, electrocution, or disease. An estimated 340,000 people were driven from their homes, and hundreds of thousands remained without electricity or clean water in the worst flooding in Jakarta in years.

The climate models have said more rain was possible in the days ahead, along with renewed flooding if rivers overflowed their banks again.

Across the main islands of the country, many overpopulated mostly by the poor, who water that had risen as high as 2 feet still engulfed entire houses.

Officials estimated that 40 percent to 70 percent of this city of 12 million people was submerged. From the air, it appeared in places that red tile roofs were floating on the brown water.

Iran Diplomat Kidnapped By Iraqis With Official ID
By James Glanz
The New York Times

An Iranian diplomat was abducted Sunday evening when his convoy was stopped by men with official Defense Ministry identification in the Karadua neighborhood here, senior Iraqi and U.S. officials said Monday.

Iraqi security forces captured several suspects after pursuing their vehicles through the streets of Baghdad, two of the Iraqi officials said.

The vehicle with the diplomat was not caught, though.

Baghdad. Killed at least 29 people and wounded 90 more there in Baghdad as preparations for the latest attempt to secure the city were under way. More than 12,000 of the U.S.-led troops buildup that some U.S. and Iraqi officials view as a last-ditch effort to keep violence in the capital from degrading into an all-out sectarian war between Shiites and Sunnis.

The abduction of the Iranian took place in a largely Shiite section of the city near a truck bomb killed at least 135 people on Saturday and where residents have complained that the slow pace of the increase in U.S. troops has left them open to attacks.

Democrats to Face Constraints In Revising $2.9 Trillion Budget
By Steven R. Weisman
The New York Times

With its military spending increasing, reductions in popular domestic programs and calls to extend tax cuts, President Bush’s $2.9 trillion budget for 2007 drew fire from Democrats on Monday.

But while Democratic critics may wish to challenge the administration’s blueprint, and play to their bases for the upcoming campaign season, they also have their own priorities.

In theory, the budget presents the Democrats their first real opportunity to rewrite the administration’s policies, especially tax cuts, that they have been attacking for six years.

But in practice, Democrats know that the only way they can find the revenue to restore the administration’s proposed spending cuts would be to cut back on military spending, delay their stated intentions to balance the budget or rescind the Bush tax cuts in future years.

The most likely result, even some Democrats acknowledge, will be a political showdown of the budget cuts, that would involve both restoring some proposed cuts in a range of domestic programs, including children’s health care, Head Start and home heating assistance for the poor and elderly.

But few Democrats are expected to look for new revenue by calling for an end to Bush tax cuts, extended instead of them as the president proposed Monday, or deal with the looming costs of Social Security and Medicare in the postwar generation retirees, all of which pose huge budget problems in future years.

The long-term budget crisis appears so distant that it’s going to be very hard to get politicians excited about it this year,” said Robert D. Reischauer, president of the Urban Institute. “The economy is strong, and the deficit seems to be at manageable levels right now. No one wants to risk popular support by doing anything just to balance the budget.

Since 2001, Democratic leaders have made a point of saying that the Bush tax cuts are unfairly weighted toward the wealthy and dangerous to America’s solvency. But the tax cuts expire in 2010 and Democrats acknowledge that they are not ready to move on them now.

One development could reopen the tax cuts to revision this year. Democrats say a signal from the administration that they would be willing to consider a repeal of some cuts for the wealthiest as part of a deal to pay for other priorities.

Democrat’s proposed spending cuts would be to cut back on military spending, delay their stated intentions to balance the budget or rescind the Bush tax cuts in future years. They are not even considered worthy of debate.

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Weather Models vs. the Groundhog
By Scott Stranisky
The New York Times

Last week, the weather models used by meteorologists predicted that we would receive two potentially substantial snowstorms. Neither event amounted to more than a dusting of snow. Analyzing the statistical output of the weather models from the last few weeks, the scorecard of the weather forecasters’ daily studies, and they usually can be relied upon. The models failed miserably last week. In the first case, the predicted development of the storm did not happen, and in the second case, we received about 1/4 inch of precipitation.

On Feb 2, the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, did not see his shadow, thereby predicting that we would have an early spring. Supposedly, the groundhog awakes from its hibernation and ventures outside. If it sees its shadow, it stays inside, knowing that winter will start the cascade could put billions of dollars in space history.

And it was hard to imagine that the Colts would play better defense than the Bears, whose franchise identity is built on punishing hits, especially on the slower track of a rain-soaked field like the one on which the Super Bowl was played Sunday night.

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The abduction of the Iranian took place in a largely Shiite section of the city near a truck bomb killed at least 135 people on Saturday and where residents have complained that the slow pace of the increase in U.S. troops has left them open to attacks.
The long and winding road has come to an end for the Beatles, at least as far as the dispute over their Apple logo is concerned. Apple Inc., whose founder is the late Steve Jobs, the guardian of the Beatles’ music interests, announced on Monday that they had settled their dispute over the technology company’s name and its use of the Apple logo.

Under the new agreement, Apple Inc. now owns all the trademarks related to the Beatles’ music, including Apple Corps Ltd., the London company founded by the Beatles in the late 1960s.

The agreement immediately raised speculation that the Beatles’ music, which has been unavailable on legitimate digital music services, might soon be available on streaming and download services.

Neither company would comment directly on this prospect, though both sides said they were happy to have worked things out.

The Beatles had threatened to sue Apple over the use of their trademark and their music on online streaming services.

Under the terms of the settlement, Apple will pay royalties to the Beatles and their estate.

The Beatles’ legacy includes more than 1,000 songs and millions of album sales around the world.

The deal comes as Apple Inc. is set to launch a new streaming service that will allow users to stream songs for a monthly fee.

The company has said it will also allow users to download songs directly to their devices.

In recent years, Apple has been under pressure to make its digital music service more competitive with services like Spotify and Apple Music.

The deal is expected to be announced on Monday, according to multiple reports.

The Beatles’ music is currently available on streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music and Tidal.

However, the Beatles have previously been critical of these services, saying that they do not pay them enough for allowing access to their music.

The Beatles’ estate has also been involved in legal battles with other companies over the use of their music.

The new agreement is expected to be a major win for Apple, which has been trying to secure the rights to the Beatles’ music.

The company has been in talks with the estate since 2014, when reports first emerged that an agreement was in the works.

The Beatles’ estate had previously threatened to sue Apple Inc. over the use of their name and music on the company’s products.

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Opinion Policy

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

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

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

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become the 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.

To Reach Us

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Letters to the editor should be sent to mail@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www-tech.mit.edu.
A Plea For Fairness at MIT

Two years ago, in January 2005, Professor James L. Sherley was appointed as a faculty member ever appointed in the Division of Biological Engineering (BE). Sherley filed a letter of complaint to the BE Committee vis-à-vis the division-level evaluation that resulted in the denial of his tenure. Professor Sherley’s complaints include charges of conflict of interest, favoritism within the BE and his legacy to that Division. Though it was not “the first faculty member hired in BE,” Sherley’s dependence on others for lab space has been used to intimidate and pressure him. On July 3, 2006, Professor Sherley received an email in which the aforementioned senior BE faculty member edited and then repeatedly requested to “get this space” [to him]. The senior BE faculty member wrote to Prof. Sherley: “Remember that it means a lot to him.” In a follow-up email exchange, the senior faculty’s threat was explicitly stated in response to Prof. Sherley’s handling of a complaint involving one of his assistants who was feeling harassed by one of the BE department’s colleagues. As far as can be gathered from the corresponding email exchanges, Prof. Sherley was handling this complaint in accordance with the relevant MIT guidelines.

Problems related to mentorship and tenure review

Various concerns also arise in the context of Prof. Sherley’s pre-tenure mentorship and the manner in which his tenure case was reviewed. In question are descriptions in the Provost’s letters of the role of one Department Head in the School of Engineering in the tenure decision. According to the Provost’s June 23, 2006, letter, was asked to “review” Prof. Sherley’s tenure case. As it turns out, this Department Head who was claimed in that letter to have agreed [with the BE Divi- sion’s] “final decision,” was subsequently identified as the Head of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Aero-Astro), and the sole African-American Department at MIT.

The Aero-Astro Head is also the very mentor whom Sherley initially had requested to review his case to Prof. Sherley and whom Prof. Sherley had not been aware of, before and after the tenure-denial decision. On Dec. 26, 2006, the Aero-Astro Head categorically stated that the tenure denial was “not what Sherley himself had shown to him.” On that same occasion, the Aero-Astro Head unambiguously stated that it would have been “inappropriate” for him to review Sherley’s case. Then and on another recent occasion (on Jan. 4, 2007), he emphatically denied having so done.

In light of the identification of the Aero-Astro Head as the other Department Head who was not “the first faculty member hired in BE,” the Provost’s summary letters dated Jan. 26 and Dec. 22, 2006, display obfuscatory statements about the identifications of the Aero-Astro Head’s role in Prof. Sherley’s tenure denial. The Provost’s letter of Jan. 26, 2006, states, “The Committee confirmed that [the Aero-Astro Head] did not see the tenure case for you.” The Provost’s letter dated Dec. 22, 2006, flatly states that “the Committee was aware of the Aero-Astro Head’s role in Prof. Sherley’s case.” A close reading of the Provost’s summary letters is all the more troubling, given the Aero-Astro Head’s standing in the arena of issues critical to the reliability and robustness of Sherley’s work. Any mishandling of Prof. Sherley’s mentorship and/or tenure review were in way pro- mised by the Aero-Astro Head’s role therein.

Aside from the obvious irrelevance of the Aero-Astro Head’s role in Sherley’s tenure denial, this letter corroborates one of Sherley’s concerns about the reliability of the BE Committee. Such a letter came with certain restrictions on Sherley’s ability to respond. A line would have to be given that was already available from the hiring unit — not ad- ductable to Sherley’s initial concern. As he was recruited, Prof. Sherley was never told that he had any chance to appeal through a suitably-initiative minority-faculty slot or that such a slot came with restrictions on how space would be allocated if space was to be procured. Sherley and with senior BE faculty initially contacted the Provost’s office.

These space restrictions have continued to plague Prof. Sherley throughout his career at MIT. Sherley is currently serving on Prof. Sherley’s recruitment and lab space committee. On various occasions, Sherley has raised questions with Prof. Sherley’s tenure committee. The Provost’s letter of Jan. 4, 2007, states, “While you [Sherley] feel that you should have a say in the process, the first faculty member hired in BE, the Committee has continued to make the appropriate decisions for the Toxicology division, prior to the formation of BE.

However official MIT documents (e.g., Prof. Sherley’s initial appointment letter dated July 1, 1998) contradicts the Provost’s letter vis-à-vis Prof. Sherley’s initial appointment at MIT. Prof. Sherley’s letter to the Provost’s office on Jan. 4, 2007, that docu- ments his doubt about the reliability of the BE Committee’s findings vis-à-vis the size of Prof. Sherley’s lab space, was not acknowledged in the Provost’s letter to Sherley.

In conclusion, we are left doubtfully as to whether the grievance process the committee has chosen to separate due diligence in investigating, ferreting out evidence of bias, and evidence, and in distinguishing facts from opinion. We therefore be- lieve that the following measures are in order: (1) the grievance process should be reviewed by a committee composed of members from inside and outside of MIT to determine the adequacy and fairness of the process. Details of this review should be re- ported by the committee in a full and in a timely manner.

Sherley’s committee determines that the pro- cess was flawed or inadequate, then appropri- ate redress should be made to Prof. Sherley.

On Saturday, Feb. 2, President Reckless re- peated the Provost’s announcement on Jan. 29, 2007, “plans to undertake a comprehensive, rigorous, and systematic study of the impact on the hiring, advancement, and experi- ence of minority faculty at the Institute” and “to take a position of leadership on this impor- tant issue. Unfortunately, given the Provost’s and Sherley’s position on the grievance process, we feel obliged to point out that, in order to assess this issue and in the near future, it appears to run counter to the administrations actions vis-à-vis Prof. Sherley’s tenure case.

Signers

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Associate Professor
Institute for Writing and Humanistic Studies

Sally Halington
Professor
Department of Biology

Melvin H. King
Senior Lecturer Emeritus
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Cesar L. McDowell
Professor of the Practice of Community Medicine
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

James Paradis
Director of Engineering, Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology

Phillip J. Thompson
Professor
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Junot Díaz
Professor
Institute for Writing and Humanistic Studies

Elizabeth Wood
Professor
Institute for Writing and Humanistic Studies

Sara Poggio
Principal Research Scientist
Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology

John H. Moore
Professor
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Chung-Poon Weng
Professor
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Joel Gross
Professor
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Phillip J. Thompson
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Department of Urban Studies and Planning

James H. Williams, Jr.
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Department of Mechanical Engineering

Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies

Michael G. Church
Affiliated Faculty
Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology

Professor
Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

Sally Halington
Professor
Department of Biology

Hans Holger Dotted
Professor
Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

Jonathan Alan King
Associate Professor
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Philipp J. Thompson
Professor
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

James Paradis
Director of Engineering, Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology

Sara Poggio
Principal Research Scientist
Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology

Do you have an opinion on Sherley’s strike? Write to us!

letters@tech.mit.edu

Page 5

Page 2

February 6, 2007

THE TECH
Attention: Juniors, Seniors and all Graduate Students

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Informational Meeting on Major Competitive Scholarships funding Post-Graduate Research Abroad

Thursday February 8, 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Room 3-133
OR
Friday, February 9, 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Room 3-133

For additional information, or if you cannot attend,
Distinguished Scholarships Office, Room 26-161, x3-4378
http://web.mit.edu/scholarships or foreign-scholarship-advice@mit.edu

Cambridge-MIT Exchange (CME)

Sophomores! Thinking about the Cambridge-MIT Exchange?

Applications are due to departments in early February.
See http://web.mit.edu/cmi/ue
February 6, 2007

COMICS FUN PAGES

BIG CLOCK, small hands
By Ali Ghajarnia & Nancy Hua

I HAVE TO PEE

I'M TIRED

I THINK I KNOW A WAY WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER.

May 2007

Run Bug
On a first date...

Tell me a little bit about you, Buddy. What kind of music do you like?

Okkee dokee.

You look disappointed. You shouldn't be, trust me. Why the smirk?

Good music.

Hasn't anybody ever told you how pretentious you sound?

Not so early into the date...

They usually say that over breakfast.

I'm out of here.

Runbug.com

THE ADVENTURES OF MAN

Sometimes I wish I had a platform

From which I could spout all of my half-cooked ideas and aberrant impulses.

Well...

Hey, Mike...

Hey, Mike...

Well, I was going to go home, but there's a seminar at 4:00. I really wanna check out...

Hey, Mike...

Well, I was going to go home, but there's a seminar at 4:00. I really wanna check out...

No, I mean, why do you still come to the lab?

Hey, Mike...

Well, I was going to go home, but there's a seminar at 4:00. I really wanna check out...

I didn't depend a week ago?

Hey, Mike...

Well, I was going to go home, but there's a seminar at 4:00. I really wanna check out...

Isn't that the street? Why are they going to have non-pizza?

Hey, Mike...

Well, I was going to go home, but there's a seminar at 4:00. I really wanna check out...

They're like regular pizza, but without...
Summer internship event for MIT undergraduates

February 7, 2007
Boston Marriott Cambridge
7:00 p.m.

Please apply through your career center by February 12.

Come hear our people from the Investment Bank talk about internships in Corporate Finance, Sales & Trading and Research, as well as our Honors Program — with no boring slides, no obscure league tables and almost no corporate boloney. Ask us anything you like. Grab a snack. Figure out your future.

jpmorgan.com/careers

THIS IS WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.
Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of the digits 1 through 9. Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudokus.com, see also solution, page 20.
Prof. Sherley Protests Racism With Hunger Strike

Sherley, from Page 1

approaches, he said, but found them insufficient in disclosing the crux of the problem. “I had to find some way to get people to stop and say there must be something really going on here for someone to go to this step,” he said to The Tech two weeks ago.

Details of Sherley’s case

In Sherley’s Dec. 19 letter, Sherley argued that his case for tenure was handled carelessly and that Professor Douglas A. Lauffenburger, director of the department of Biological Engineering, performed a racist act by asking “an African-American head who is not in my field of research” to sign off on his decision “not to advance my tenure case for review by Engineering faculty in December.” Additionally, Sherley also outlined his main reasons for complaint, which included damag-

In a Jan. 30 letter to the MIT administrative faculty, Sherley said that his conflict with Griffith affects his tenure situation, according to a spokesperson for the department. According to Thilly, this is a conflict that is “nothing private.”

His conflict with Griffith affects Lauffenburger’s ability to make a fair decision, Sherley said.

To the interview, Sherley said that Lauffenburger is solely responsible for the decision not to forward his tenure case. According to Thilly, however, it is ultimately the director’s decision, not the faculty votes, but there is not much leeway to steer away from the outcomes of the faculty votes. Almost all tenured faculty of the BE department voted, and the outcome of the “Regents Professor” vote is confidential.

Administration, faculty respond

Members of the BE faculty issued a statement yesterday, stating “with certainty and a clear conscience that...” We state with certainty...” We hope those who hold...” Sherley’s case was assessed and decided on the merits.

MIT’s tenure process is extremely rigorous; less than half of the Institute’s many talented junior faculty members are promoted to tenured positions. MIT has a well-es-

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Dear faculty, staff, and students at MIT and abroad,

Statement of Provost Demands

In: "A plea for help to end racism at MIT" - Dec. 19, 2006

I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to seek Provost Reif's resignation from his position as Provost and his continued involvement in the administration of the Institute. I am calling on you to begin to demand that the administration of the Institute not continue to be marked by systemic racism.

My first demand is that Provost Reif resign. I announce this and call on you to join me in this effort. I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to ask Provost Reif to resign as Provost of MIT. I am calling on you to join me in this effort.

My second demand is that Provost Reif be removed from his position as Provost of MIT. I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to begin to demand that Provost Reif be removed from his position as Provost of MIT.

My third demand is that Provost Reif be held accountable for his actions. I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to begin to demand that Provost Reif be held accountable for his actions.

These demands are based on the following:

1. Provost Reif's actions have been racist.
2. Provost Reif has been involved in racist actions.
3. Provost Reif has been involved in racist decisions.

I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to begin to demand that Provost Reif resign as Provost of MIT. I am calling on you to join me in this effort.

Yours sincerely,
James Sherley

Excerpt from 'A plea for help to end racism at MIT' - Jan. 29, 2007

Dear Faculty, colleagues:

I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to seek Provost Reif's resignation from his position as Provost and his continued involvement in the administration of the Institute. I am calling on you to begin to demand that the administration of the Institute not continue to be marked by systemic racism.

My first demand is that Provost Reif resign. I announce this and call on you to join me in this effort. I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to ask Provost Reif to resign as Provost of MIT. I am calling on you to join me in this effort.

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I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to begin to demand that Provost Reif resign as Provost of MIT. I am calling on you to join me in this effort.

Yours sincerely,
James Sherley
Robot enthusiasts packed into 26-100 on Friday, Feb. 2 to watch the Mobile Autonomous System Laboratory competition, the face-off between robots that had made it to the final stage of this year’s contest.

“One of our ideas was for [the robot] to set itself on fire at the end …” said Karen L. Chu ’08, whose robot, Sharara, means spark in Hindi. Sharara was one of the 17 robots that competed in the final contest for the Maslab robotics competition last Friday. This year, 17 teams and 57 participants showed off their robotic designs to the eager audience.

Each Maslab team was given a kit that included the vital components for robot construction, such as an 800 MHz VIA Mach computer, a USB wireless device, and drive motors.

The object of this year’s contest was for the robots to find and pick up as many red balls as possible and deposit them into goals marked with yellow tape. Infrared reflective sensors and ultrasound helped the robots accomplish these goals.

The winners of the final contest this year were Team 1, with their robot “12AW12,” and Team 14 with their robot “Yellow Hat.” The Design Award and Best Dressed both went to Team 12 with their robot “The Washingtons.”

With less than a month during Independent Activities Period to construct their robots, teams are pressed for time. Many teams focused on getting their robots to move in the right direction, sense and avoid the walls of the playing field, and pick up the red balls. One of the robots, Team Thirteen’s “Mr. Whiskers,” was instead programmed to get a sense for and give a visual representation of the playing field using its camera and other equipment, including a gyroscope, and optical encoders.

“Our robot’s got a sweet chrome finish over a truck-like body,” said Eletha J. Flores ’10 of her robot, Fubar.

“My favorite ‘bot was Team 8’s Jolly Roger. Some amazing engineering went into that robot, including homemade omniwheels — now that’s hardcore! Watching that thing move was just plain awesome — it was like a UFO,” said Maslab participant Aaron E. Ramirez ’10.

The robots each had five minutes to put as many red balls into the goals as possible. Picking up a red ball was worth one point, putting the ball within 12 inches of the goal was worth two points, and scoring a goal was worth four points. The layout of the Maslab competition field was unknown to participants until the day of the competition, increasing the difficulty level of the project.

This year, Maslab was sponsored by ITA software as well as Google and Sun Microsystems. MIT alumnus David P. Ziegler ’04 described Maslab as “a particularly cool competition because it’s such a large engineering space.”
TODAY!

Find an internship or a job with:

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See more at:

By Kirtana Raja

Team Purple Dragon roared into the final rounds of this year’s 6.270 competition, taking first place before a large audience of local residents, students, and faculty last Thursday, Feb. 1 in room 26-100.

Sergio Haro ’08 and Julie Shi ’08, made up Team Purple Dragon. Team Supernova (Gary M. Matthews ’08, Jodyann F. Coley ’08 and Stephen J. Pueblo ’08), and Team Make Way for the Dung Beetles (Melanie C. Bomke ’09 and Samuel J. Evans ’09) were second and third place, respectively.

“I never thought I would actually win — it was very exciting,” Shi said.

The theme for this year’s contest was “Snakes on a Plane.” As in past years, robots moved colored balls around on a white, boxed-off area. This year’s competition found robots moving as many of their colored balls into the three different scoring areas of the demonstration arena. The round was won by having the most balls standing in as many of the three different scoring areas as possible.

Shi noted that during the course of the final elimination rounds, their robot competed against the placebo robots, a spinning Ferris wheel and a slithering snake-bot that were meant to simply fill space without actually competing in the tournament, a few times — a result of being seeded very high and having an odd number of remaining contestants.

Shi said that having to play against the placebos in a few rounds was perhaps not as fair to some of the other teams, who had opponents every round.

“I’m extremely proud to win second place,” said Pueblo. “We all put in a tremendous amount of work, and we knew that our robot would do well.”

Team Supernova’s robot experienced some technical difficulties as the tournament progressed. Coley said that in general she felt that their robot was pretty consistent, but that if there were anything that they would have done differently, it would have been to try to get the robot to drive straighter. This would have improved the robot’s performance a little by preventing it from going off course so much, though it is difficult to determine how much a gyroscope will drift.

“If we had a chance to take 6.270 again, we would definitely use shaft encoders to drive more accurately,” said Pueblo in agreement with Coley. “A tip to future 6.270 participants: make sure your robot is consistent and reliable.”

“IT was surprising and satisfying to see that our hard work paid off in such a tangible way,” Evans said of his third place robot.

The Dung Beetles experienced some stalling in the later rounds of the tournament, which Bomke and Evans both attributed to various mechanical failures with the robot’s gearbox. Dennett mentioned that the organizers have started to work on the contest rules and design for next year already.

A notable change will be that organizers may be paid next year, Dennett said.

Dennett said that the event organizers also hope to find a way to prevent the double win situation from occurring, so that only one team can win in every round.

This year, as in the past, several sponsors gave away free items such as t-shirts that audience members scrambled to acquire.

A Web site featuring more information about this year’s contest can be found online at http://web.mit.edu/6.270/www/about/history.html.
Clockwise from top left:
Helen H. Liang ’08 of “Three Blind Mice” places her robot, Paul, on the 6.270 playing field.
Team 31’s Evan D. Gerard ’08 and Dan L. Lopuch ’08 bring the robots to organizer Julia M. Dennett’s ’08 (left) attention.
Gary M. Matthias ’08 inspects his team’s robot before a match.
Team Supernova ended up taking 2nd place.
Katherine J. Hollenbach ’07 of “Ringo Star” places their robot on the field and prepares to start it up.
Lisa M. Nakano ’08, Andy L. Lin ’08, and Mavis Li ’08 of team “Alphalpha” cheer on their robot as it competes in one of the final rounds of the 6.270 competition.
Julie Shi ’08 and Sergio Haro ’08 celebrate as they win the 6.270 Autonomous Robot Design competition.
The competition was entertaining for participants and audience members alike. People watched the bots on two large screens in room 26-100.
2.670: Powered by Hard Work, Denatured Alcohol

2.670 teaches freshmen and Course II majors to use MATLAB, SolidWorks, and machine tools — as well as execute technical drawings — by taking them through the process of building a Stirling engine. Though most make few or no modifications to the basic design, some take the time to design drastic changes to the given parts. The modified engines do not necessarily outperform their “stock” counterparts.

Clockwise from top left:
2.670 professor Douglas P. Hart adjusts Alison S. Greenlee’s ’09 Stirling engine just before the final spin-off on Friday, Feb. 2.
“If it doesn’t explode, it’ll go really fast.” Assistant Matthew “Smalltime” S. Humbert ’08 adjusts the quad-cylinder franken-Stirling engine with double-speed flywheel. It was not working by the time of the spin-off.

One of the factors in engine speed is temperature, and here Michael A. Carvajal ’09 holds his hands to keep the heat in close to three running engines — all getting a boost from an extra burner in the center. After lighting the flames under their engines, the 2.670 class watches as their creations purr to life.
Daniel E. Klenk ’09 (right) examines his heavily modified engine as the engine RPMs are measured by Daniel T. Schultz ’07. It clocked in at the fastest speed in the room, 980 RPM.
House, Senate Reach Accord on Pell Grant Increase Last Month

By Diana Jean Schemo

WASHINGTON

The maximum federal grant for middle- and low-income students to attend college would increase for the first time in four years under a catchall spending bill that House and Senate Democrats agreed to on Jan. 30.

The measure would complete budget issues left over from 2006.

The increase, announced by the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, would raise the maximum grants, under the Pell program, to $4,310 a year from $4,050. The last substantial increase in the grants was in 2001.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the Senate education committee, called the increase “an important down payment by Democrats on our commitment to help families with high college costs.”

The move follows a vote by the House, under the Democrats’ agenda in the new Congress, to cut interest rates on some subsidized loans for middle- and lower-income students.

Although the rate cut passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, that bill was criticized by House Republicans and the Bush administration as benefitting just college graduates faced with repaying loans, rather than broadening access to college for low-income students.

With the announcement last Tuesday, days before President Bush is to release his 2008 budget, Democrats appeared to answer that criticism, part of a broader effort to claim the issue of college affordability.

Even if the president asks for an increase in Pell Grants, as the White House has indicated is likely, Democrats will have already acted to increase the grants.

Republicans generally appeared to support increasing the grants.

Each year, 5.3 million students with family incomes less than $40,000 a year receive the grants. Although the grants have remained steady, the cost of attending college has outpaced inflation, lowering the buying power of the grants.

The budget bill would increase federal grant money by $615.4 million, to $13.6 billion for this year.

An advocate for the US Public Interest Research Group Higher Education Project, Luke Swarthout, said the increase was significant, though students had hoped for a much larger increase.

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<th>Applications</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<td>9,697</td>
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<td>3,493</td>
<td>3,091</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>8,947</td>
<td>8,283</td>
<td>+ 8%</td>
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SOURCE—UNITED S. WILSON, A. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Amorous Intent: Looking for Love at MIT

The winnower gallery is looking for interpretations of love from MIT students of all nits for its second Amorous Intent exhibition, we want art of all media from the bitingly caustic, the hopelessly romantic, the wildly unmelodic, the spiritedly honest, and all of those in between.

please make your submissions by february tenth to the student art association, w20.429 or contact students.unionmit.edu

exhibition opening reception february nineteenth from six to eight.

You could be selling this space!
join@the-tech.mit.edu

If you didn’t buy your textbooks at Half.com, you paid too much. Half.com has all the textbooks you need like chemistry, astronomy and history for a lot less.

For a limited time, save an additional 5% on purchases of $50 or more. Simply use this code: SAVE50AND5

half.com

By ebY
Charm School Helps Students Learn Life Skills and Etiquette

Charm School, from Page 1

The end result? Two floors of the Student Center decked out in silver and blue stars, balloons, and streamers. A tempting spread of vegetable platters, brownies, cookies, and drinks was set up on the third floor, and groups of about 15 or 20 were gathered at the different stations where the classes were being taught.

Emily D. Flores, Public Service Center office manager, taught a class on “How to Build Your Confidence.” While doing a skit with a student volunteer, Flores attempted to show students how not to act if they needed to show confidence. “I’m pretty OK, but Bobby Sue over there, she’s so pretty and smart, she can do so many things at once,” she said, nervously looking down and twirling her hair in her fingers.

After the skit, Flores gave students tips on how to keep their confidence level up. “Count on yourself, reward yourself, and give yourself a pat on the back,” Flores said. “And if you don’t know what to talk to someone about, remember the acronym FORE. That means Family, Occupation, Recreation, and Education.”

Downstairs, Brian Klatt of the Center for Space Research was running another popular class, “Dress for Success.” Looking dapper in a tan blazer, paisley tie, and brown shoes with dark socks, Klatt extolled the virtues of dressing well in a professional setting. “Mechanical engineering is the most formal sect of the engineering professions,” Klatt said. “If you go to a company, you see all these engineers in jeans and t-shirts, and then you start seeing full suits and ties, and you know you’ve gotten to the mechanical engineers.”

Lei Zhang G said that he found the classes enjoyable and informative. “I learned how to tie a bow tie!” he said with a huge grin on his face. He said that he found his new-found ability to tie a bow tie was the most useful, although he also attended “Dress for Success” and “How to Tell Someone Something They’d Rather Not Hear.” “I don’t know when I’ll use it though,” he said. “I would wear just a regular tie for most events.”

Zhang was not the only one learning new skills at Charm School. Corinna Hui ’09 was also taking advantage of the various events. “It’s so embarrassing, but I went to the first date presentation,” Hui said. “It was really good at teaching communication on a first date, how to let them know what to wear or that you’re not interested.”

Overall, Charm School seemed to be an enlightening experience for the students who attended. “If I had to choose events to go to, I would probably go to ‘Table Manners’ or ‘Ballroom Dancing,’” Raymond said. “They’re both practical and impractical, you know?”

The day ended with a commencement ceremony, which included keynote speakers such as Laura A. Stuart, a former sexual health educator at MIT.

“This is a great event,” Hui said. “These are skills that everyone needs that are easy to not learn at MIT. It’s a good time being Charmed!”
Each semester FAIR Fund, Inc. presents Dru Awards to student applicants submitting the most creative and well-thought-out ideas for combating violence against women. If you win, you’ll have the opportunity to carry out your project idea and to share your progress and results online with campus activists nationwide.

**Award:** Up to $1500 (plus a small stipend of up to $600) and professional organizational support as needed for implementing your project.

**Who may apply:** Any student enrolled in higher education and committed to ending gender-based violence on her campus and in her community.

**Submission deadline:** Feb. 28, 2007.

**How to apply:** Complete the online application at [http://drucampaign.org/](http://drucampaign.org/).

Questions may be addressed to Makiko Hotoda, FAIR Fund National Programs Officer, drucampaign@fairfund.org, or the MIT Crime Club, crimeclub@mit.edu.

The MIT Crime Club first gained notoriety two years ago when our efforts to promote *in vitro* drink testing for date-rape drugs at Harvard, MIT, and BU were featured in the *Phoenix* (Deirdre Fulton, “About Last Night”) and the *Weekly Dig*. Our members have been serving as the Police Log Compilers for MIT and Harvard at the *Cambridge Chronicle*. We were recently invited by FAIR Fund to help identify students with innovative project ideas for deterring violent crime on campus.

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**Dru Award Competition**

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**Drink more water. :-)**
The Tech
February 6, 2007

17.908
Race, Crime, and Citizenship in American Law

Malick Ghachem
(Visiting Lecturer in Political Science)
Thursdays
7:00-10:00pm
66-160

This course surveys the relationship between race and crime in the United States, with a special emphasis on the role this relationship has played in the development of American ideas about citizenship and nationhood.

The course considers a number of case studies that have figured centrally in contemporary debates over criminal law and racial discrimination:
- Capital punishment
- Felon disenfranchisement
- Racial disparities in the war on drugs
- Illegal immigration

This course also considers the distinctive problems that national security concerns pose for racial equality and American citizenship, particularly in the wake of September 11, 2001.

For more information contact Malick Ghachem, mwghachem@yahoo.com

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Congratulates

THE 2007 BURCHARD SCHOLARS

Allison Berke
Raja Bobbili
Gabriel Cira
Daniel Denis
Ross Goodwin
Ruijie He
Reshmaan Hussam
Anthony Jones
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Gloria Lee
Noel Lee
Richard Lin
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Lauren McLendon
Mahalia Miller
Navin Nasser-Ghodsi
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Tala Qusous
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Lisa Song
Lucia Tian
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Angelica Weiner
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The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the faculty and promising sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. The Burchard Program format is a series of dinner-seminars held during the academic year to discuss topics of current research introduced by MIT faculty members.

THE BURCHARD SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY
THE DEAN’S OFFICE, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Backofen an Author, Metallurgy Member, Award-Winning Prof

of metals, temporarily given a near nano-size grain structure, to behave like Silly Putty. That paper was recognized for its seminal influence on a non-biocomposite global industry at an International Conference on Superplasticity held in Chengdu, China, in June 2006.

Born in Rockville, Conn., on Dec. 8, 1925, he graduated as valedictorian from Rockville High School in June 1943, entered MIT within days, and soon enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In February 1946 he graduated from MIT with an ensign’s commission and bachelor’s degree in metallurgy.

By September 1946, he was back at MIT as a graduate student/instructor in the Department of Metallurgy. In 1950 he married Elizabeth (Lib) Wood Warren of Orange, Mass., and received his doctorate with an appointment as assistant professor in the Department of Metallurgy.

Backofen belonged to the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers and the American Society for Metals and Materials, and was elected to membership in Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi. He was the first in his field to receive its three principal achievement awards for teaching (Bradley Stoughton Award, 1958), research (Howe Medal, 1964) and professional leadership (Campbell Lecture, 1975). He was a popular speaker in his profession and was a pioneering popular-science lecturer on live television for the fledgling Channel 2 of Boston’s first broadcast from the roller skating rink across Mass. Ave. from MIT.

During a sabbatical at Dartmouth College, he wrote a book on his technical specialty, deformation processing, in a systems-analysis context that redefined an ancient field for modern times.

In partnership with his wife, he started Hill Farm, where they raised apples, blueberries, and Christmas trees, in East Plainfield, N.H. They also ran an American art and antiques business and founded the Lord Timothy Dexter Press, devoted to exploring New Hampshire history. He is survived by his wife; a brother, Albert H. Backofen of Greenfield, Mass.; and two foster sisters, Dolores Hoermann of Rockville, Conn., and Lois Shelly of Bel- leaire, Fla.

There will be no services. His ashes will be scattered at Hill Farm.

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Become a varsity athlete in the ultimate team sport!

INFORMATIONAL MEETING AT THE PIERCE BOATHOUSE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH @ 11am

For more information contact the novice coach:

Evan Thews-Wassell
etw@mit.edu
The Tech
February 6, 2007

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By Jonathan D. Glater

Colleges and universities from
Massachusetts to California be-
gan receiving formal requests for
information Feb. 2 from the New
York attorney general’s office as
part of an investigation of financial
relationships they or individual col-
lege officials have with student loan
companies.

The inquiry by the attorney gen-
eral, Andrew M. Cuomo, shows a
sharpening focus by government
officials on the often undisclosed
relationships between loan compa-
nies and colleges and universities,
particularly as tuition has soared and
private student loans have be-
come a lucrative, fast-growing
business.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy,
Democrat of Massachusetts and
chairman of the Senate education
committee, is taking aim at so-
called preferred-lender lists, which
college financial aid officers com-
pile to recommend loan companies
to students. Because students tend
to rely on advice from those offi-
ces, getting on the list is crucial,
and lenders use various tactics to
carry favor with colleges and uni-
versities.

Mr. Kennedy is pushing a bill that
would require the disclosure of such
arrangements; prohibit gifts and ser-
VICES worth more than $10 to col-
lege employees; and require lenders to tell students
that they might be eligible for low-
interest federal loans.

The Federal Education Depart-
ment, which until recently had rel-
atively little attention to such prac-
tices, is now weighing whether to
regulate preferred-lender lists, per-
haps by requiring colleges and uni-
versities to include a certain mini-
um number of loan companies as
options; some institutions have just
one or two on their lists.

These combined efforts could
pose a peril to some loan companies,
which have flourished as private
student loans, not guaranteed by the
government, have grown at an aver-
age rate of 27 percent annu-
ally since 2001. Private loans now
make up 20 percent of total edu-
cation loan volume; students took out
more than $17 billion in such loans
last year, according to the College
Board.

But the most aggressive action
so far is by Mr. Cuomo, who has de-
manded information from eight loan
companies, including Education Fi-
nance Partners and Sallie Mae, the
nation’s largest student lender, and
plans to query more than 60 col-
leges and universities.

“My office is seeking to ensure
that students are being steered to-
ward lenders offering the most com-
petitive rates, not those who offer
the best perks to schools or finan-
cial aid administrators,” Mr. Cuomo
said in a statement.

In an interview, Tamera Briones,
the chief executive of Education Fi-
nance Partners, defended her com-
pany, which has arrangements with
several institutions in which it sends
money to a college based on the
amount students borrow, with pay-
ments increasing with loan volume.
Ms. Briones said loan terms did not
change based on whether an institu-
tion received such payments.

“What I believe will occur is, a
thorough investigation will be done,
and at the end of the day, I don’t be-
lieve that the attorney general’s of-
ICE will find any significant wrong-
ding,” Ms. Briones said.

The inquiry by the attorney general shows a
sharpening focus by
government officials on the often undisclosed
relationships between loan
companies and colleges.

By Attorney General

Loan Companies Fall
Under Careful Watch
By Attorney General

she added that her company had
cooperated with Mr. Cuomo’s of-
ICE.

Most of the colleges and univer-
sities getting letters from Mr. Cuo-
mo are outside New York, but may
be subject to the jurisdiction of the
attorney general because they have
students from the state.

Mr. Cuomo has sent letters to
10 colleges in California, nine in
Pennsylvania, and eight in Mass-
sachusetts. Seven New York insti-
tutions are getting letters, as well
as ones in Michigan, New Jersey,
South Carolina and Texas, among
other states. Some colleges and
universities have already received
the requests.

St. John’s University has re-
ceived one, said Dominic Scacchi,
a spokesman, adding that its law-
yers were reviewing the letter. The
University of Nebraska has got-
ten one, too, said Kelly Bartling,
a spokeswoman there, as has Bos-
ton University, said Colin Riley, a
spokesman.

John Beckman, a spokesman for
New York University, which also
received a letter, said, “We select
preferred lenders based on the com-
petitiveness of their rates for the
largest number of NYU students
and the quality of the loan service
they offer, which is what we shall
indicate in re-
sponding fully
to their questions.”

John T. Mil-
grim, a spokesman for Mr. Cuomo’s office, declined to answer questions about how the colleges were select-
ed to receive letters, or to provide a
COPY of a letter.

The list of the schools was com-
based on our investiga-
tion,” Mr. Milgrim said.

The kinds of arrangements loan
companies may have with colleges vary. One type is the kind that Edu-
cation Finance Partners has — pay-
ing a college increasing sums of
money to a college increasing

Mr. Joyce also warned against
the over-regulation of students’ options
for financing their education.

“Those decisions should not be
made by bureaucrats in Wash-
ington,” he added.

Mr. Joyce also warned that ex-
cessive restrictions on prefer-
ed-lender lists might result in students’ receiv-
ing a barrage of bewildering
direct-marketing materials from
loan companies.

He said, “Students are still going
to go to the financial aid office and
say, ‘Who do I work with? What do
I do?’”

The attention to preferred-
lender lists is one more sign that access to
higher education has become a hot
topic. Just last week, Democratic
lawmakers and President Bush
appeared to compete to raise the
maximum amount of money for Pell
Grants, federal grants for middle-
and low-income students.

And House Democrats with
much fanfare passed legislation last
month to cut interest rates on subas-
dized federal student loans.
Once upon a time, in a far land away (China), a panda was born. Michael "I’m a little pony" McGraw-Heged ’08 was confused about his identity, but nonetheless was destined for greatness as the Chairman of the 127th Managing Board of The Tech. Brought over to the big city of Boston, Little Mic-Mic knew that his time would come, for whenever he was a sad panda, he would run fast and far from MIT.

Although the residents of the far-away land inhabited on sunshine and flowers, the panda recognized that a little money never hurt anyone. Who better to trust with his money than incoming Advertising Manager Nechara "happy first the second" Bhartiya ’10 and Riti’s "happy second the first" Tandon ’10?

The panda then realized that he needed to get with the times and publish his journeys to the Interweb and the people would be heard. Mic-Mic went to seek the help of the experienced Operations Manager Zachary "what happens if..." Ethnic ’02, whose meticulous workings not only held Link to dominate Hyrule, but helped bring down the evil Lord Zozer, whose year and a half run as Chairman was marked by drunken fatty "Ozer '07 guise of Otter" and the peaceful leaders of the small-Texan" leadership coalition, who agreed to continue in that role as Executive Editor.

As the panda continued his wanderings through the mystical, magical Tech land, he came across Little India, whose voices were represented by the wise Opinion gurus Aditya "I'm a little pony" McHark ’02, whose ascendance to control would not be hindered by the wise Lord Zozer, whose meticulous workings not only linked Link to dominate Hyrule, but helped bring down the evil Lord Zozer, whose year and a half run as Chairman was marked by drunken fatty "Ozer '07 guise of Otter" and the peaceful leaders of the small-Texan” leadership coalition. Who better to control these men than singing to himself “such a calm, or at least no emotions. They included Richy “I’m Mexican and I don’t like cheese” Ramirez ’09 and Eric “I am in fact not Dutch” Schmiedl ’09, who together will lead the Photo Department. The non-word-believers also declined to join in, but called out amongst them the newly greeted Jessica "Saucy" Witchley ’10, Queen of Productivity, population 0.

Although the residents of the far-away land inhabited on sunshine and flowers, the panda recognized that a little money never hurt anyone. Who better to trust with his money than incoming Advertising Manager Nechara "happy first the second" Bhartiya ’10 and Riti’s "happy second the first" Tandon ’10?

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Diverse Strategies Employed For Virtual Domination

6.370, from Page 1

Event directors Adam V. Donovan ’07, Matthew M. Papi ’07, Yang Yang ’07, and Arash Ferdowsi ’08 said that changing to the best-of-three format was one of many gameplay alterations this year. With the new format, “teams have a chance to learn from their earlier games,” said Donovan. Previously limited to Boston-area college students, parts of the contest this year were accessible to teams anywhere in the world. Papi said that teams had submitted programs from as far away as South Korea, Costa Rica, and Portugal.

Another major gameplay change was the revamping of the energy system (“energons”) that powers the virtual armies. “Last year, there was a lot of energons flowing around,” said Jasper Lin G, who won last year’s event but helped the directors design the gameplay for this year’s contest. With the changes, the programmers were forced to design algorithms to have their armies strategically manage and distribute their energy.

The changes led to a final tournament with considerable diversity of strategies. For example, third-place finishers Georgian 600bs (Zviad Metreveli ’10, Lawrence L. Chan ’10, Michael R. Fettigplace ’06, and Gleb Kuznetsov ’10) executed a very defensive, methodical strategy. In the early rounds it was wildly successful, but in the later rounds, a shift to a larger battleground map favored the fast, attacking strategies of Battletoads and My Other Programming Language is Scheme. The end result was that the final battles between Battletoads and My Other Programming Language is Scheme were frantic, fast-paced swords contests.

The action delighted the crowd, which included not only 6.370 participants, but a large number of MIT students, alumni, and corporate sponsors, as well as a crop of young students from Bay Farm Montessori School in Duxbury, Mass.

For the sponsors, the event was a chance to recruit MIT students. Matthew Flint, lead research engineer at BAE Systems, a defense and aerospace automation firm and a principal sponsor of the event, said that “for BAE as a company, this contest is very closely aligned with what we do every day.”

The primary school students from Bay Farm Montessori School had different reasons for their attendance. “Everyone’s bragging about it, that they saw it last year,” said Ian Wright, age 9, referring to his peers who were in the finals last year. Waldo, another of his classmates, added, “It’s cool and fun to watch,” said Abby Austin, age 11, whose mother Julia works at VMware, another sponsor of the event.

Neither Tobenkin nor his partner Qumsiyeh and Tobenkin agreed that it was very surprising and exciting to win the tournament. They said that in the final rounds of developing their program, they pulled quite a few all-nighters and changed their program to better deal with Battletoads’ fast attack strategy. “Most of our time was spent on code that we threw away,” Tobenkin said.

In eighth place was Jaime Qui- nonez ’07, the only of the top eight who’d made the trek to last year’s finals. “I ruled out buying a digital oscilloscope,” Tobenkin said. Qumsiyeh and Tobenkin agreed that it was very surprising and exciting to win the tournament. They said that in the final rounds of developing their program, they pulled quite a few all-nighters and changed their program to better deal with Battletoads’ fast attack strategy. “Most of our time was spent on code that we threw away,” Tobenkin said.

In eighth place was Jaime Qui- nonez ’07, the only of the top eight who’d also been a finalist last year. Fill- ing out the rest of the finalists were bloodthirsty lawngnomes (Daniel A. Whitlow G) in seventh place.

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Feb. 6, 2007

THE TECH

Page 25

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Jan. 12 and Jan. 31, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuttles.


Jan. 13: E56 (38 Memorial Dr.), 12:49 a.m., Individuals preparing to leave E56 carrying items. Fowler St., 11:36 a.m., Malicious damage to vehicle; window smashed.

Jan. 16: 305 Memorial Dr., 2:56 p.m., Fraudulent use of MIT Techcard.


Jan. 18: M13 (105 Rear Mass. Ave.), 5:01 a.m., Suspicious vehicle at 305 Memorial Dr.

Jan. 19: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 10:35 a.m., Routine check to investigate suspicious male rummaging through trash, then sleeping in the kitchen.

Jan. 20: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 8:01 a.m., Routine check; suspicious person sleeping in third floor coffee shop.

Jan. 21: W70 (471 Memorial Dr.), 9:38 p.m., Breaking and entering; laptop computer stolen from room.

Jan. 22: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 12:17 a.m., Caller reports vehicle accident at Ashdown; MIT Police car sent to investigate; State Police notified.

Jan. 23: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 8:01 a.m., Routine check; suspicious persons found sleeping in third floor coffee shop.


Jan. 25: E23-125 Carbon St., 8:26 a.m., Caller states she can hear a woman yelling for someone to call for MIT Police; seems to be an argument taking place on MIT ramp; all units clear.

Jan. 26: M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 8:52 a.m., Subject arrested for trespassing and was transported to Cambridge Police Department; Daniel Baldwin, 209 Layden St., Boston.

Jan. 27: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 11:10 a.m., Breaking and entering; subject on agreement.


Jan. 30: E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 11:91 a.m., Reporting person states he saw a suspicious male (beard, grey pants, red jacket) walking around aimlessly; trespass notice issued.

Jan. 31: W99 (201 Vassar St.), 3:53 a.m., Breaking and entering; reporting person states her laptop was stolen from her room while she was showering.

Jan. 31: W1 (350 Memorial Dr.), 4:26 p.m., Suspicious package; MIT Police, Cambridge Police, and Massachusetts State Police investigate suspicious device at Mass. Ave. and Memorial Dr.

20.104 Chemicals in the Environment: Epidemiology, Toxicology and Public Health

(Same subject as 1.081, ESD.053J)

William G. Thilly and Robert McCunney

thilly@mit.edu
mccunney@mit.edu

Prereq: 5.112 or 3.091, 7.01x

Units: 4-0-8

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday T3-5 (56-180)

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

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9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
School of Medicine
715 Allston Street, L Building, Boston

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32-124 at 7PM

Resume Deadline: February 18

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Holschuh Scores His First Goal of Season

Hockey, from Page 28

inn '10 on the second to record the fastest back-to-back goals by the En-
ger game. Lahbounty (from Ballentine and Kevin M. Farino '10) added a fourth with just 20 seconds left in the open-
ing stanza. The middle frame saw much of the same, as Studley completed his
hat trick with help from Bergin at 15:25 to push the lead to 5-0, before
defenseman Bradley T. Holschuh '07 picked up his first goal of the season. Studley beat Springfield goalie
John Jacques for the fourth time early in the third to make it 7-0 again, with
Bergin providing the decisive pass. A power play tally from Stephen T. Payne '08 (from Edward J. Sturm '08) and an unas-
isted goal from Near finished out the comprehensive score line.

Thomas A. Hopkins '07 picked up his second shut out of the season in earning the victory, lowering his
goals-against-average to 2.18 in the process. Jacques, typically a back-up for the Pride, took the loss.

The Engineers will return to the ice tomorrow when they host Bryant University at 7:00 p.m. in the John-
son Ice Rink.

Racz Wins 100 Breast, Qualifies For NCAA B

Men's Aquatics, from Page 28

ation Racz was once again dominant in the breaststroke events, winning both the 100-yard (58.22) and 200-
yard (2:10.92) versions. His time in the 100-yard qualified him for the NCAA "B" cut, while his time in the
200-yard was nearly four seconds better than that of his closest com-

Warnock also had a great week-end. His time of 10.24.28 in the 100-yard freestyle was tops among
all MIT swimmers, and a personal best in the event. "Ken Warnock's lifetime best in the 1000 free was
a great, well-paced swim," Head Coach Dawn B. Gerken said.
The Engineers have nearly two
weeks to prepare for the 2007 New
England Women's and Men's Athletic
Conference Championship, which is
on Feb. 16 at Wellesley.

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Pamidimukkala Leads Engineers with 21 kills, 10 digs, and 3 aces

Volleyball, from Page 28

Nationally-ranked No. 10 MIT raced out to a 7-2 advantage in the second game. Baruch stayed within
striking distance for most of the frame as it trailed by five as late as 19-14. A six-point run that was fol-
lowed by a four-point spurt helped power the Engineers to the 30-18 win.
The final frame was much like
the first, with 10 ties and 10 lead
changes. Baruch established a 10-7
dge which prompted a timeout by
MIT. Following the break, the Engi-

neers recorded the next two points. The Bearcats maintained the slim
lead as they went ahead, 15-12.

MIT registered three points in a
row, but Baruch responded in kind.
The Engineers slowly chipped away
at the deficit and then took the lead
at 24-22. The Bearcats produced the final
tie of the match before MIT tal-
ed five unanswered points. Follow-
ing a service error by the Engineers,
the Bears seized control of the game,
with 14 kills and 11 digs as Stephen
A. Hopkins '08 and

MIT will play against Rivier Col-
lege tonight at 7:00 p.m. in Rockwell
cage.

Racz Wins 100 Breast, Qualifies For NCAA B

Men's Aquatics, from Page 28

Racz Scores His First Goal of Season

Hockey, from Page 28

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MIT will play against Rivier Col-
de...
Hockey Smashes Springfield 9-0 On Four Goals by Senior Studley

By Jeff Lemieux

MIT Invitational Meet in Just 3:30.61
Men’s Medley Wins Opening Event of
las R. LaBounty ’09, who had each scored three earlier in the campaign. The win was the Engineers’ tenth of the season, compared to only three losses — all by a single goal — and one tie. Springfield fell to 3-7-0 following its second straight loss to MIT. The Engineers conquered the Pride, 10-2, last Saturday. The Cardinal and Grey’s offensive output was relatively spread out, as 11 members of the Institute notched at least one point. Besides Studley and Bergin, other multiple-point performers included LaBounty and freshman William G. Near ’10, who each had a goal and an assist. It took just over a minute for MIT to tally what would ultimately be the winning goal, as Ryan W. Ballentine ’09 scored on a power play at 18:53. The score remained 1-0 for the majority of the first period, until Studley exploded for two goals in a 14 second span to extend the lead to 3-0. Studley received assists from Near on the first and Dustin P. Kond.-

Upcoming Home Events
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007
Men’s Volleyball vs. River College
7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007
Men’s Hockey vs. Bryant University
7:00 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

Men’s Volleyball Wins, Coach Dill Sets Record
With 68th Career Win

By Mindy Brauer

Coach Paul Dill achieved this milestone with the

Thornton, Tech Women Impress in MIT’s Final Home Meet

By Jeff Lemieux

Women’s swimming hosted the MIT Invitational meet this weekend, an unscored matchup for postseason competition. Racing athletes from Middlebury College, Northeastern University, Tufts University, Wheaton College, and Williams College, the Engineers honored their seniors and won three of the 54 events.

Katherine C. Thornton ’07 did not disappoint in her final home competition for the Engineers, displaying two stunning performances that illustrated why she will be so dearly missed. Her time of 17:29.11 in the 1650-yard freestyle on Friday night was not only tops among all swimmers, but was over 16 seconds faster than her next closest competitor. She is now ranked fourth in the nation in the event.

On Saturday afternoon, Thornton returned to the water to place second in the 500-yard freestyle by clocking in at 5:12.75, a shade over four sec-

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Women’s Aquatics, Page 27

Women’s Aquatics, Page 27

Congratulations! MIT is a finalist in the

Women’s swimming hosted the

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