Hispanic applicants are provided an advantage in the process. Conversely, “Asian applicants are the biggest winners if race is no longer considered in admissions,” according to the report. Without racial preferences, “nearly four out of every five places in the admitted class not taken by African American and Hispanic students would be filled by Asians.” The study drew on admissions data from the fall of 1993 and 1997.

Li also referenced empirical data to support his argument. Following the passage of Proposition 299, which outlawed race-based preferences in California in 1996, the percentage of Asian-American students at UC Berkeley increased from 34.6 to 42 percent by 2006. At the University of Washington, the percentage rose from 22.1 to 25.4 percent within six years of a similar ban on affirmative action.

“There was much more pressure to compare myself to other Asians,” said Joshua J. Lim ’09. With “only a few spots for Asians … you would really have to distinguish yourself as an Asian instead of as a human being.”

Over 4,000 community members lost e-mail access early Wednesday morning in an outage that still affects some.

One of MIT’s five e-mail servers, po14, crashed sometime before 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 7; said Jeffrey I. Schiller ’79, MIT Network Manager for Information Services and Technology.

Schiller said the problem arose when po14 experienced a kernel panic similar to Windows’ blue screen of death, triggering an automatic restart of the mail server. Upon restart, the server detected file system corruption that required manual repair by IS&T technicians.

By Thursday afternoon, over 3,000 of the 4,000 users had e-mail restored, though there was a large backlog of incoming messages.

As of Thursday evening, roughly 300 users on po14 were still without e-mail. Schiller estimated the service would be restored for everyone by 9:30 a.m. Friday.

Because of MIT’s redundancy and backups, Schiller said he was “not too worried about data loss.”

On Wednesday, he estimated a maximum of 10 messages across the whole system would be corrupted, a number he revised to three on Thursday.

Those three messages had likely been saved in regular backups, he said.

Users on po14 who forward their e-mail to external servers, such as Gmail, were unaffected by the outage.

While the root cause of the outage is unclear, IS&T’s 3Down Service Status page characterized the outage as extremely rare. According to Schiller, IS&T simply “didn’t foresee this happening.”

IS&T has localized the error to the file system on po14. MIT maintains a RAID file system on e-mail servers, so that mail messages are preserved across multiple hard drives to prevent failure. Unfortunately, something caused a small amount of data corruption on the RAID system and eventually triggered the kernel panic that caused po14 to restart, said Schiller.

On reboot, po14 ran the application “fsck,” which is designed to check and repair corrupted files. While operating, fsck reads a small amount of data from every single file on a system. Fskc ran for nearly 24 hours, trying to repair the nearly 27 million files on po14, said Schiller.

“I [was] mind-numbing,” he said.

MIT experienced a similar e-mail outage in the first week of May 2003. During that incident, a bug in the operating system of the mail server po14 caused file corruption and triggered a file consistency check.

“In that outage, fsck took four hours to run,” said Schiller. “I attribute a small amount of data corruption on the RAID system and eventually triggered the kernel panic that caused po14 to restart, said Schiller.

Shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday morning, one of MIT’s five e-mail servers stopped functioning, disrupting service to approximately 4,000 faculty, students, and staff. Some e-mail accounts were still unavailable as of press time.

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Democrats Propose Iraq Pullout by Fall 2008
By David Stout
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

House Democratic leaders intensified their debate with President Bush on Iraq Thursday as they announced legislation that would pull American combat troops out of Iraq before the fall of 2008.

"Only they can see the benefits of our efforts on Afghanistan to the extent that we must," Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. She said the Iraq withdrawal deadline would be attached to legislation providing nearly $12 billion requested by the Bush administration for the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns and money to expand health care for veterans.

Rep. David R. Obey of Wisconsin, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the leadership's proposal "will essentially redistribute more of our resources to the war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan, fighting the right war in the right place against the people who attacked us and who are driving al-Qaeda sanctuary."

But despite the Democrats' advantage in the House (233 seats, to 201 for the Republicans), the leadership's proposal seems to have little chance of advancing, since Republicans are nearly united against it and Democrats are split, with some conservatives saying it goes too far in aiming to wind-down the war in Iraq and liberals saying it does not go far enough.

**Ford to Give Bonuses to All**
By Nick Bunkley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ford Motor Co., which had been criticized by union leaders over the prospect of bonuses for management, said on Thursday that all of its employees would receive a "modest" bonus.

Ford was rewarding its workers even though it lost a record $12.7 billion last year and mortgaged most of its assets to make sure it would be able to keep a cash reserve and avoid closing plants and revamping operations to cope with depressed losses from automotive operations.

"Last year, though we fell short of our profit and market share goals, we made significant improvements in quality and cost savings," Ford's chief executive, Alan R. Mulally, told employees in an e-mail message Thursday.

Workers represented by the United Automobile Workers or the Canadian Automobile Workers union will receive $500. Bonuses for other nonmanagement employees range from $300 to $800. Workers in management-level positions will receive "higher, but still modest," bonuses. Ford said.

"While too early to discern significant trends, there have been a few encouraging signs," Petraeus said. "Secitarian killings, for example, have been lower in Baghdad over the past several weeks than in the previous month." He also said fewer families were being forced out of homes by sectarian gangs and that troops had uncovered significant illegal stashes of bombs and weapons.

But he emphasized that successes had come with devastating setbacks. "Schools, health clinics and market-places have all been attacked," he said. "Car bombs have targeted hundreds of innocent Iraqis," including worshippers in Habbaniya and college students in Baghdad.

**Europe Divided on How To Fight Global Warming**
By Dan Bilefsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Divisions over how to fight global warming threatened on Thursday to overshadow a summit meeting aimed at making the European Union the world leader in the battle against climate change.

European leaders are expected to approve plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 as part of an effort to reduce the bloc's dependency on oil and gas exports. But governments of the union's 25 members face oppositions, including within the eurozone, that would endanger efforts to reduce their dependency on oil and gas exports. But governments of the union's 25 members face oppositions, including within the eurozone, that would endanger efforts to reduce their dependency on oil and gas exports.

On the eve of the meeting, which began on Thursday, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, whose country holds the rotating European Union presidency, said she was planning to go over others, including whether renewable energy targets should be met in a way that would be true to the bloc's dependency on oil and gas exports. But governments of the union's 25 members face oppositions, including within the eurozone, that would endanger efforts to reduce their dependency on oil and gas exports. But governments of the union's 25 members face oppositions, including within the eurozone, that would endanger efforts to reduce their dependency on oil and gas exports.

While $90 million is not huge but has come with devastating setbacks. "Schools, health clinics and market-places have all been attacked," he said. "Car bombs have targeted hundreds of innocent Iraqis," including worshippers in Habbaniya and college students in Baghdad.

**Slip of the Tongue, $90 Million Donation Unexpectedly Leaked**
By Daniel J. Waklin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

An anonymous donor has promised $90 million to the Frank Gehry-designed future home of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Fla., one of the largest gifts to a classical music institution.

But before the new building even is expected to be completed, its executive director, Frank H. Messner, said that "the gift is on hold" and that "the donor has decided to pursue a strategy through new fundraising drive, Howard Herring, the orchestra's president and chief executive, said the commitment was made two years ago. "We intend to honor this gift by making our contribution to the future of classical music," Herring said.

The new building will include a 700-seat hall, practice rooms, offices and state-of-the-art media and technical equipment. The project includes a small park and a parking lot. It will sit on Lincoln Road, a boulevard of restaurants, clubs and souvenir shops.

The orchestra plans to raise about $200 million for the project, including $50 million for the endowment. The board members overseeing the fundraising drive, Howard Frank, said the $90 million promise had been crucial in persuading other donors and board members to come forward with their dollars.

The orchestra has an additional $35 million yet to raise, about $45 million is expected to come from local government. Frank said. Money will also come from the sale of the orchestra's current home, a converted movie theater on Lincoln Road.

Orchestra officials declined to be specific about the donor.

New World, which calls itself America's Orchestral Academy, has long been flush, thanks in part to Ted Arison, the founder of Carnival Cruise Lines, who was the driving force in its founding. Arison, who died in 1999, contributed more than $60 million. His widow, Lisa, remains the orchestra's largest single donor. But before the new building even is expected to be completed, its executive director, Frank H. Messner, said that "the gift is on hold" and that "the donor has decided to pursue a strategy through new fundraising drive, Howard Herring, the orchestra's president and chief executive, said the commitment was made two years ago. "We intend to honor this gift by making our contribution to the future of classical music," Herring said.

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US, South Korea Restart Talks On Ambitious Free Trade Pact

By Choae Sang-Hun

U.S. and South Korean trade negotiators began a hurried round of talks Thursday as Seoul agreed to resume U.S. beef imports in a concession aimed at smoothing the path toward what would be Washington’s most ambitious free trade agreement in 15 years.

South Korea brightened the prospects for the talks when it decided to ease its quarantine standards so that U.S. beef can re-enter South Korea, once the third-largest overseas consumer of American beef.

But Washington’s chief representative in the talks, Wendy Cutler, the assistant U.S. trade representative, was not satisfied with the limited scope of beef imports made possible under the South Korean concession. “Our Congress continues to make it abundantly clear to us that there will be no FTA without a full reopening of the Korean beef market,” Cutler said at a news conference, referring to a final trade agreement.

South Korea’s initiative on beef came as the two countries started five days of talks, the eighth round since the negotiations began in June last year. It came after South Korea’s promise to show “maximum flexibility” to clinch the proposed deal, which some studies say could add $20 billion to the two countries’ annual $72 billion in trade.

Both sides hope to conclude a deal by the end of the month to take advantage of President Bush’s expiring fast-track trade authority. By requiring lawmakers to cast a simple yes or no vote without amendments, the authority makes it easier to push a trade deal through Congress. While the authority does not lapse until June, an agreement would need to go to Washington by the end of this month because lawmakers would need time to review it before a vote.

While tussling over the beef dispute, negotiators must also overcome differences over U.S. demands for wider access in the South Korean market for cars, medical products and farm products, and over South Korea’s call for changes in U.S. anti-dumping laws that Seoul says are unfairly applied to its computer chips, steel and textiles.

China Nears Passage of Landmark Private Property, Corp. Tax Laws

By Jim Yardley

China’s national legislature began delving on Thursday into a landmark law that would provide legal protections for private property as well as a law that would gradually equalize corporate taxes on foreign and domestic corporations.

The two pieces of legislation are a result of years of debate within the Communist Party and are intended to protect private wealth, create more coherence in the tax code and continue the country’s market-driven economic reforms. The property law is particularly symbolic, because it codifies private property into the evolving legal code of a country that is growing rich on capitalism but nominally remains a socialist state. “To me, the private property law is more a symbolic ratification of how far China has rejected its socialist past,” Arthur R. Kroeber, managing editor of China Economic Quarterly, said in an e-mail message. “That’s important insofar as it signifies a point of no return in the reform process.”

Both pieces of legislation were introduced Thursday during the National People’s Congress, the annual two-week gathering of the Communist Party-controlled legislative body. Passage, considered a formality, is expected next week.

Approval of the property law had been expected last year, but party leaders tabled the proposal after an unusually public and passionate ideological fight erupted, led by leftist scholars who argued that the law would worsen income inequality, legalize the misappropriation of state assets and undermine the socialist tenet of state ownership of property.

This will accelerate the loss of state assets,” Gong Xiantian, a People’s Daily columnist, said in an interview this week. “It will accelerate the process of turning the country into a place where private ownership is the dominant system.”

China, particularly symbolic, because it economic reforms. continue the country’s market-driven to protect private wealth, create protections for private property as

EUROPEAN CURRENCY

Two Key Lebanese Leaders Meet

By Hassan M. Fattah

Saad Hariri, the Sunni Muslim leader of Lebanon’s March 14 coalition, the largest bloc in Congress, and the Shiite Parliament speaker, Nabih Berri, a major opposition leader, met late Thursday night to discuss ways of ending the country’s political crisis. The meeting was widely seen as a significant break in the months-long stalemate that has brought Lebanon to a virtual halt.

Hariri and Berri met for the first time in four months at Berri’s headquarters amid heavy security. Though unlikely to produce a final deal between the sides, the meeting was seen as a major step toward easing Lebanon’s growing political and sectarian tensions and a precursor to a possible deal.

The session followed a meeting last Saturday between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran and King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss ways of settling the growing sectarian and political crises in parts of the Middle East. Lebanon was central to that discussion, and rumors have since circulated both in Riyadh and Beirut that a deal was imminent in Lebanon.

European Central Bank Raises Benchmark Rate

By Carter Dougherty

The European Central Bank raised its benchmark interest rate by one-quarter of a percentage point on Thursday, to 3.75 percent, and made clear that it was willing to tighten credit further, possibly by the summer, in a strong European economy that could generate inflation.

The bank’s president, Jean-Claude Trichet, pointed to the possibility of spikes in energy prices and big pay increases in major European wage settlements as reasons that the threat of inflation might require a response. “I didn’t see why we are at a peak,” Trichet said. “Full stop.”

The European bank’s colleagues at the Bank of England chose to keep their benchmark interest rate at 5.25 percent after increasing it three times in the last six months. There, central bankers are trying to gauge whether they have headed off inflation amid a booming real estate market and robust consumer demand that is allowing British retailers to charge higher prices.

Having hinted strongly at more rate increases to come, Trichet left open the question of how much and when. Many analysts say the answer depends on whether the economy of the euro zone, which grew 2.6 percent last year, the fastest in six years, keeps up that pace this year.

On Thursday, the central bank forecast growth this year of 2.1 percent to 2.9 percent, slightly higher than its prediction three months ago, reflecting brisk growth toward the end of 2006.
A Hollow Defense For Misguided Forum

Raffiella C. Waksman’s letter to The Tech (“Responses to Controversial Forum is Misleading”) is, in itself, misleading. Her letter was the latest in the ongoing debate over the planned event, “Foreign Policy and Social Justice: A Jewish Voice, A Muslim Voice,” at which an anti-Semitic Imam and an anti-Israel Rabbi were chosen to give the Muslim and Jewish views. Many people felt that it was inappropriate to give that title to the event, as neither speaker has the support of the community he was held out as representing. Some also take issue with MIT-funded groups like the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences providing funding for an event anti-Semitic and anti-Israel speakers. Others, including M. Waksman, the VP of the Forum on American Progress (which co-sponsored the event), support it. She made six points to which I feel the need to respond.

1. She is correct that Rabbi Weiss was one of the few speakers at Mahnoud Al-Mahmud’s Holocaust denial conference to say that the Holocaust did happen and that the death toll has not been exaggerated. He also, however, claimed to have documentation proving that the secular Jews had collaborated with the Nazis to kill off the more religious Jews. He said he was unable to elaborate on the nature of this documentation due to time constraints. This is dishonest hate-speech of the worst kind.

2. She is again correct that Weiss is Jewish, and therefore his opinion constitutes “A Jew’s view.” No one’s arguing that the event title is false, it is just that it is intentionally misleading. The vast majority of Jews disagree with Weiss, so it is dishonest to claim that he represents “A Jewish view,” even if that is literally correct.

3. Her third point, that FAP was not involved in the event, is also patently wrong. I would understand his point (and Katz’ s argument on his March 6 letter is similar) if the event he is referring to was academic. But this is an event that was part of the Greater Boston Interfaith Coalition’s event, co-sponsored by the Coalition and the organizers did make the event a bit less misleading that it would have been otherwise.

4. Waksman argues that Jewish opinions were sought out before the event, and in response to the title the event was changed and the rabbi’s views were mentioned at the event. That doesn’t change the fact that the forum brought purveyors of hate-speech to MIT. The event title sounds like the title one might give to a reasoned debate between moderates on both sides, not to an event with one anti-Semitic speaker and one full-blown anti-Semitism. All the organizers did was make the event bit less misleading than it would have been otherwise.

5. Waksman says SHASS and FAP merely wanted to foster debate. There are good ways and bad ways to achieve that goal. A good way to achieve it would be a debate between two people with opposing positions. But this is misleading than it would have been otherwise.

6. Waksman argues that the event title is dishonest to claims that Weiss represents “A Jewish view. No one’s arguing that the event title is false, it is just that it is intentionally misleading. The vast majority of Jews disagree with Weiss, so it is dishonest to claim that he represents “A Jewish view,” even if that is literally correct.

Letters To The Editor

The March 6 article “CME Being Funded Again” mistakenly stated that applications for the Cambridge-MIT Exchange “are due in the next few weeks.” Actually, the deadline has already passed and the evaluation process has started, although interested students can still contact their departments or the Study Abroad Office to submit an application, according to Malgorzata Hedrick, assistant dean for the Study Abroad Office.

Jeff S. Cohen G

Letters

The Little Words Matter

I’m very sorry to say that Jeremy B. Katz’s argument on his March 6 letter is simply wrong. I would understand his point (and share his outrage) if the event he is referring to was academic. But this is an event that was part of the Greater Boston Interfaith Coalition’s event, co-sponsored by the Coalition and the organizers did make the event a bit less misleading that it would have been otherwise.

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Opinion

Opinion Policy

Editors are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdig, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Koli.

Dissepts 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 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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The motivations of the Social Justice Cooperative (SJC), writes Rebecca N. Motola-Barnes ’08, are not easy to discern. Asked to choose a title for an event, organizers were told by the Social Justice Cooperative’s national office to use its logo with a sidekick: “I would accept that sentiment as genuine. However, I would suggest that the SJC’s motives by looking at their website (http://web.mit.edu/socialjustice/www/) are nuanced and complex.” As the Veritas Forum promotes passive submission to an established religion, rather than a deeper examination of the search for meaning. As the creators of intellectual development, institutions of higher education have a duty to ensure that organizations like Veritas do not dominate the discussion in the search for meaning. Places like MIT should not allow the opportunity to be hijacked by well-meaning but closed-minded individuals seeking to impose a religious agenda. The university must see that the pursuit for meaning remains an active pursuit rather than a passive submission.

Rahmat Muhammad

Last week, MIT hosted the Veritas Forum on Science, Faith, and Technology, purportedly to address whether religious belief can be effectively reconciled with scientific pursuit. Veritas began with a Harvard group on a “quest for a life with hope, meaning, and purpose.” The event’s speakers (and their parent Web site) argued that the individual can and should believe in Christ, and did their best to convince non-religious but “meaning-seeking” members of the scientific community (and to reassure the religious) that belief in Jesus Christ and Christianity can satisfy both the need for a meaningful life and a career in science.

The issue is an important one, and the forum addressed a need: people do search for meaning in their lives. However, I would like to set forth an alternative: “Jesus-free” definition of “meaning” (and I welcome critiques of this definition), based on which I will suggest that scientific knowledge is meaningless, technology is meaningful, and that technology, nor science, should be guided by some sort of belief/value system.

By my definition, lives and actions find meaning when they are directed at something bigger than themselves. It seems to me that leading a meaningful life goes hand in hand with performing some sort of action and directing it outwardly. Using this definition, most people would agree that the statement Mother Teresa had a meaningful life though they would also have to agree that Jihadi’s also have meaningful lives. Mother Teresa was driven to outwardly directed action in order to affect the lives and actions of others.

Veritas may not be trying to convert anyone, but they are trying to impose Christian values on those who may not have had a clear prior conception of where to find meaning in their lives. An outwardly directed action requires guidance by a value system, but this system does not have to be Jesus-centered, even religious at all. It is just as possible — and just as potentially problematic — to apply other systems of belief, (e.g. Islam or Judaism) as a way to guide science. So the better question is: can and should technology guide the pursuit of science and technology? Science places great significance on the freedom of inquiry and discovery. When practiced in its purest form, its only aim is to seek truth, even scientific truth, inductively true in that truth is intrinsically value neutral (you cannot have good truth and bad truth) and the scientific pursuit is not directed towards any goal other than obtaining knowledge for its own sake. Therefore, when a scientist enters the lab, her curiosity should stay at the door in order to ensure that she can seek value neutral, objective truth. Similarly, research institutions have a duty to create an environment where arbitrary value systems do not obstruct or bias the search for truth.

I would accept that sentiment as genuine. However, I would suggest that the SJC’s motives by looking at their website (http://web.mit.edu/socialjustice/www/) are nuanced and complex. As the Veritas Forum promotes passive submission to an established religion, rather than a deeper examination of the search for meaning. As the creators of intellectual development, institutions of higher education have a duty to ensure that organizations like Veritas do not dominate the discussion in the search for meaning. Places like MIT should not allow the opportunity to be hijacked by well-meaning but closed-minded individuals seeking to impose a religious agenda. The university must see that the pursuit for meaning remains an active pursuit rather than a passive submission.

Rahmat Muhammad is a graduate student in Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

Letters, to Page 4

to have promised “The Jewish View, The Muslim View” on foreign policy and social justice. However, it instead advertised “A Jewish View”, and therefore no offense can be taken, nor can it be argued that there was any dishonesty on the part of the organizers and sponsors of the event. Since Rabbi Weiss is Jewish, his opinion by definition is Jewish. However, no matter how wrong, right, controversial or orthodox it is. This said, adult listeners attend of their own volition. They should inform themselves about the speakers before attending.

A suggestion for those interested in promoting dialog on a controversial issue is that someone with a history of the community’s strong desire to see a newly acquired knowledge used in a positive way. There is no doubt that technology is to be guided towards a meaningful end but this


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What, you have something to tell us this week?

Tell us your opinions.
CONCERT REVIEW

Chorallaries Leave Bad Taste in Eager Mouths

Evening Filled With Dead Celebrities, Google, Facebook, and a Hunger Strike

By Nick Semenkovich

Nh Annual Concert in Bad Taste
MIT Chorallaries
March 4, 2007, 10:59:59 p.m.

I t was my first time at Bad Taste and I had no idea what to expect. I had heard tales of offensive skits, outrageous songs, and lines snaking through the MIT buildings, but quite frankly, I believed none of them. I'd seen worse, right? They couldn't offend me. Or so I thought.

As traversed the ridiculous line of people outside of 10-250 (quite a few of whom appeared to be imbibing a viscous fluid...), I realized that I was in for a true MIT experience.

Inside 10-250, the boards were covered with an assortment of offensive drawings (Ever seen Hello Kitty — AIDS Kitty?), a great play on “Dick in a Box,” and an interesting charge to the IRC. Whoever gets Hockfield’s daughter into Hello Kitty — AIDS Kitty? (a great play on Facebook, freshman year experiences, being “on,” and more), but were sometimes difficult to hear amidst shouts of “Holly Johnson is hot!” and torrents of offensive verses by the Chorallaries.

Following a chant of “gonorrhea” from the audience, God (Benjamin M. Schwartz ’08) addressed the crowd, producing a list of people to be offended. Steve Irwin drew noticeable jeers, as did Christopher Reeve and his wife, tubs. And thus started what would be a couple of the most memorable and offensive hours of my life.

The Chorallaries’ performance was an artful interweaving of skits and songs. Three main skits clearly dominated the evening: Google as a person, Survivor—Afterlife Edition, and Story Time with the Administration. The songs were also well done (play on Facebook, freshmen year experiences, being “on,” and more), but were sometimes difficult to hear amidst shouts of “Holly Johnson is hot!” and torrents of arthritis cluster paper emanating from the audience.

Google (Schwartz) was eerily reminiscent of a stalker following around a search user (Michael R. Blaisse ’10), drawing information from search, Gmail, and Google Calendar. Google seemed to know the answer to every question and when he didn’t, Google’s commonly-vanquished friend Wikipedia (Katy a J. Jarrell ’08) was called in (Did you know that the dielectric constant is the number of people killed by licking power lines each year?). Google did have a few problems answers questions about Tiajuana Square; “Of course I know about it!” said Google. “I just lie to Chinese people. You should always lie to Chinese people.”

Survivor—Afterlife Edition was the longest skit, with dead contestants vying for entry into heaven. Anna Nicole Smith (Yelena S. Bagdasarova ’10) drew shouts of “Trimpay Baby,” while Christopher Reeve (Michael R. Blaisse ’10) seemed unable to lift his arms to shield himself from incoming toilet paper rolls. Poor Smith showed some confusion about the difference between paralyzed, parallel, and parallelized. Eventually, Saddam Hussein (Jared C. Sadowski ’10) gained entry into heaven after serving as George W. Bush’s (Abid A. Chana dawarka ’09) guardian angel. Unfortunately, the skit was split up by a song and smaller skits, which made it a bit difficult to follow.

The clear audience favorite was Story Time with the Administration, where the children’s story Green Eggs and the Man detailed Professor James L. Sherley’s departure from sus tenance and his talk with the administration. “Would you, could you, in a shack? You live there already. You are black.”

LSC-style cue-cards prefaced small skits, “Your Mom! … In Stereo!” was a great chant, although the appearance of Saddam Hussein’s suspension was a depressing reminder of the state of MIT’s union. Musical Theatre Guild’s cast of Reefer Madness made a cameo appearance that started off a bit rough, but quickly gained the crowd’s support. There were a few other noteworthy sketches, such as “100 Other Meanings of OLPC” (One Laptop Per Child), including “soil lovers please call,” “old ladies push crack,” and “omit lube, penis chafes.” There was “KY-40 — from the makers of WD-40,” as well as a handful of skills which ended when anyone said “bomb,” prompting intervention by the Boston Police Bomb Squad.

This year, the traditional Top 10 list featured “The Top 10 Ways to Get an Asian Girl by MIT,” including “give her a single beer,” and “be the only straight guy in Dance Troupe.”

The show ended with “The Engineer’s Drinking Song,” including some custom-written and — true to the spirit of the show — offensive verses by the Chorallaries.

The edgy, hysterical evening was clearly not in great taste, that was, after all, the point.

A List of The Offended

Anna Nicole Smith
Saddam Hussein
Steve Irwin
Richard Nixon
Christopher Reeves
Christopher Reeve’s Wife
James Brown
George Bush
The Power Rangers
Gay Men
Google
Power Rangers
Native Americans
Grandmothers
Sorority Girls
Fraternity Boys
Homeless People
Arashi Dagur
Your Mom
Google
People with Vaginas
PC Users
People without Vaginas
Emo Kids
The Cross Products
Guys in Dance Troupe
Professors on Crash Diets
Professors off Crash Diets
Jews
Pirates
Dead People
People with Tary Penises
People who would wait outside for two days to see this concert
Course 7
Course 15
Course 21
The Boston Bomb Squad
Snakes
BUT Students
Suffolk Students
MIT Students
YOU

Page 6 THE TECH March 9, 2007

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SO, I SUGGEST IT'S TRUE THEN.
I REALLY AM FAT AND UGLY. IT'S THE REAL
REASON YOU BROKE UP WITH ME, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S PRECISELY THE REASON I BROKE
UP WITH YOU.

LOOK, AVA, I'M NO ONE EVER ASKED ME. I PERSONALLY THINK YOU'RE VERY PRETTY...

HOWEVER... FOR THE RECORD, IF ANYONE
EVER ASKED ME, I'D SAY OTHERWISE. IT'S YOUR
BODY AFTER ALL...

PRETTY? YOU THINK I'M PRETTY?
I'M NOT WANT TO HEAR ANY
MORE!

BUT, DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU.
PLEASE SO ON.

**PROOF OF FALSE**

by Andrew Spann

---

Hey, do you remember: 

\[ 1 - \left( \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(n-1)!}{k!(n-k-2)!} \int_{x=1/2}^{1} (x-1/2)^k (1-x)^{(n-k-2)} \, dx \right) \]

It turns out that it's: 

\[ 1 + \left( \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(1/2)^k}{k!} \right) - \left( \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{n}{2^k} \right) n \]

\[ \text{or } 1 - \left( \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(n-1)!}{k!(n-k-2)!} \int_{x=1/2}^{1} (x-1/2)^k (1-x)^{(n-k-2)} \, dx \right) \]

**Run Bug**

by Roberto Perez-Franco, G

---

I'm looking for a lawyer. Can you recommend anybody?

Sure, Buddy! What for?

There's this 'guy' I want to sue, but no lawyer will take my case.

Who are you suing?

Just... some guy.

Who? Tell me!

I don't wanna...

Speak!

Punxsutawney Phil.

Who? Tell me!

The groundhog? C'mon! Why?

Hey, that forecast was WAY off!

---

Crossword Puzzle

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

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Debate, from Page 1  

``No matter how you bake it, we have an open and shut case.``  
—Prof. David S. Jerison, on the hamentash

``Give it a chance if you're in the mood for love.``

—Mike Sargent, WBAI

``It's a tragedy to see a fine scholar bake it, we have an open and shut case.``

—Ouellette's claim of Shakespeare's Hamentashen Homotopy: The Superior Form, in which he argued that the hamentashen has a "richer homotopy," or mapping in space, and is metaphorically likened to a purse, with a delicious filling. He went on to incorporate the Hurwicz theorem of algebraic topology, but chose to simplify the math for the audience by focusing on the hamentashen's geometry. Specifically, Jerison cited a long lost Buddhist Kabbalah secret, a paper casually called "The Three-Fold Way," that avoids completely observing the occurrence of St. John along certain lines to the vanishing point to produce specific triangles. These triangles, once drawn on a 2-D plane and specially oriented, can be folded inwards to form the hamentashen. Jerison finished by explaining that the hamentashen can be closed completely or left partially open to reveal the filling, and that "no matter how you bake it, we have an open and shut case."  

The What It Stood For  

Opening for the Latke side with a "Give Latkes a Chance" presentation, Kaiser examined the hamentashen's place in post-WWII US history. He explained that the hamentashen's "monotony topology" was the actual focus of the General Advisory Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission, and that although Fermi had initial calculations which suggested the inability of hamentashen ingredients to reach a critical temperature for fusion, Teller and Ulam were eventually able to devise a working model. Kaiser warned the audience that "my career has been everything they said it would be...and much more." Nalita, Field Engineer

Two Brown University Students Start Group Focusing on Equality  

Affirmative Action, from Page 1  

A similar case was brought up in 1998, when Henry Park, ranked 14th at the prestigious boarding school Groton, was rejected from several elite universities, including four Ivy, MIT, and Stanford.  

In Daniel Golden's The Price of Admissions, MIT Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones said, "It's possible that Henry Park looked like a thousand other Korean kids with the exact same profile of grades and activities and temperament...yet another textless math grad."  

Jones was unavailable for comment on the Li issue.  

The question of whether Asian-American students are held to a higher standard by admissions officers has also garnered attention on other campuses. Two sophomores from Brown University, Neil Vangala and Jason Carr, have started a group on campus called Asian Equality in Admissions. One of the initial goals of the group is to encourage Asian American applicants to leave the question of race off applications blank. Vangala and Carr have since redefined their goals and are now trying to "investigate and identify possible sources of discrimination in Brown University's admissions process...to educate and inform students of the possible discrimination; and to promote institutional transparency," said Vangala. The group is currently working with other multi-cultural groups to obtain a student government resolution that would submit a formal request for data to the administration. The students both support affirmative action as a method for correcting past and present forms of injustice.

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``My career has been everything they said it would be...and much more.``

—Marilee Jones, MIT Dean

``It's a tragedy to see a fine scholar make up facts,`` quipped Wolfe before beginning his presentation, on, "The Potato and the Iconography of Evil." Taking a biblical perspective in defining the hamentashen, Wolfe focused on the story of Adam and Eve, since "the apple is a lure entry and the real icon of the fall is the potato." He then asserted that the depicted figures in various pieces of historical artwork are picking not from fruit trees, but red bliss and baking potato trees. Although Wolfe conceded that potatoes do not grow on trees anymore, he found recent research by a respected early text scholar that revealed a variant in the Genesis. This, he explained, completely changes a famous line to, "...but from the evil potato tree you shall not eat, for on the day you eat from it, you will die!``  

Wolfe ended his argument with scientific fact, presenting to the results of a 1998 study by Sadoway, Sadding- way, and Saddingway which detailed the effects of secondhand consumption. Another study revealed that lab rats work much harder for latkes, but that does not necessarily mean latkes are better, Wolfe argued, as cocaine completed the upward trend on the graph.  

A reinvention of the wheel  

"Give it a chance if you're in the mood for love."

"Clever, insightful and very funny."  
—Mike Sargent, WBAI

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**Gift For Psychiatric Research**

**By Carey Goldberg**

The Broad Institute, the genomics powerhouse in Cambridge, Mass., announced Wednesday that it will receive what it believes is the biggest gift ever for psychiatric research to a single US institution: $100 million to decipher the genetics of severe mental illnesses.

The money comes from the Stanley Medical Research Institute, a family philanthropy based in Maryland. It will be used largely to gather and analyze thousands of DNA samples from people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, in hopes of determining the complex genetics behind the diseases.

Only in the last year or so has gene-scanning technology reached the point that scientists think that aim is realistic, said Dr. Edward Scolnick, who oversees the Broad's psychiatric research. Researchers at the Broad and elsewhere are also using these genomic tools to make inroads on cancer, diabetes, and other diseases.

For mental illness, it could take several years to determine the key genetic risk factors, Scolnick said. But once that is done, "You can start developing new approaches for diagnosis, new targets for treatment, new understanding of which drugs to use in which people, and turn it into a rational science. That's the Holy Grail."

It has long been clear that schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, which afflicts more than 6 million Americans, run in families. But the specific genes involved have proven largely elusive.

The symptoms tend to vary so greatly among patients that schizophrenia, for example, may actually be a handful of different diseases.

Complicating matters further, they are believed to stem from multiple genes that might be different from patient to patient, along with factors in a patient's environment.

Given that complexity, researchers believe they need many DNA samples to pick up the tricky genetic signals; perhaps as many as 10,000 for each disease, along with 10,000 from people without the disease for comparison, Scolnick said.

That DNA then needs to be scanned in its entirety for genes correlated to the disease, which is where the Broad's expertise comes in. The institute has been developing ever-faster and cheaper methods.

**Gift For Psychiatric Research**

**Broad Institute Receives Large**

**Police Log**

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Feb. 16 and Mar. 7, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, lancenac, or medical shuttles.

**Feb. 21:** W20 (84 Mass Ave.), 6:23 a.m., Check on subject in W20 2nd floor, Michael J. Keeskel, 240 Albany St., Cambridge, MA. Taken into custody for outstanding default warrant.

**Feb. 22:** M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 4:24 p.m., Suspicious person escorted from the area.

**Feb. 23:** M9 (105 Mass. Ave.), 9:45 a.m., Malicious damage to glass door.

**Feb. 27:** M10 (122 Mem. Dr.), 9:38 a.m., Package left unattended, questioned owner.

**Feb. 28:** E60 (30 Mem. Dr.), 3:53 p.m., Complaint of phone scam.

**Mar. 1:** W20 (84 Mass Ave.), 6:22 a.m., Suspect missing person at Student Center, trespass warning issued.

**Mar. 2:** W20 (84 Mass Ave.), 6:21 p.m., Report of someone throwing large quantity of the Cambridge Chronicle newspaper.

**Mar. 2:** W20 (84 Mass Ave.), 8:09 a.m., Two suspicious people sleeping in 2nd floor lounge of W20. Marvin McKinnon, 220 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA taken into custody for a default warrant.

**Mar. 3:** PHE (400 Mem. Dr.), 12:39 a.m., Noise complaint.

**Mar. 4:** 111 Bay State Rd., 6:19 p.m., Suspicious male in lobby, escorted out of residence.

**Mar. 5:** TC (525 Beacon St.), 11:40 p.m., Report of individual who would not leave the area.

**Mar. 6:** BTP (119 Bay State Rd.), 1:44 p.m., Report of loud music.

**Mar. 7:** E2 (70 Amherst St.), 10:05 a.m., Suspicious person, issues trespass warning.

**Mar. 8:** C2 (111 Bay State Rd.), 10:19 a.m., Suspicious person, issues trespass warning.

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duplicate file system. According to Schiller, post mail files are split into four partitions, each with roughly 1,000 users. Three of the partitions were intact, allowing roughly 3,000 users to regain email; one of the partitions was corrupt, requiring manual repairs.

In an email, Jerrold M. Grochow '68, vice president for IS&T, described the outage as "an unacceptable length of time for email to be unavailable to 20 percent of our community." Grochow also outlined a project to provide "completely redundant" mail service that began in early 2006 with the goal of completion in Summer 2007.

Schiller said plans to upgrade email would be finalized in the next week, but considered complete redundancy extremely difficult to attain. One option under consideration is to break apart MIT’s five large mail servers into 40 or more servers, so that an outage would impact fewer users and could be repaired more quickly.

Outside services such as Google have offered to run MIT’s email, but Schiller is wary of the security and privacy of such services. "Whose mail is it anyway?" he asked.

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

Money Will Benefit Genomic Research

E-mail Upgrade Plans Examined

E-mail, from Page 1

for genomic analysis, so that it can now scan a patient’s sample for half-a-million genetic variations at once. In a couple of months, said Eric S. Lander, the Broad’s director, that will be up to a full million.

“If you’re looking for a needle in a haystack, and you can sift the whole haystack, you’ll find the needle,” Lander said.

Other research groups have begun tackling the genomics of serious mental illnesses, and the National Institute of Mental Health maintains a huge repository of DNA from people with mental illness, said Dr. Tom Insel, the federal institute’s director. But only recently has it become clear from work with other complex diseases that to crack the genetics of bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, many more samples are needed than had been thought, he said.

The gift to the Broad “is exactly the right thing at the right time at the right place,” Insel said. “We now have the ability to do a lot of the genomics we couldn’t do two years ago, and there’s probably no better place than the Broad to do that.”

The gene-scanning results will be posted publicly, he said, so that all researchers will have access to the data. After the initial sweeping scans of a patient’s full DNA, researchers will then need to “drill down” into targeted areas of DNA to piece apart where exactly the genetic problems lie, he said.

Then, researchers say, comes the really hard part: figuring out how the genes act to produce the disease.

The Broad, a joint institute of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be using “the full armamentarium of modern genomics,” Lander said.
Three aces. Michael Demyttenaere '10 recorded 11 blocks as Dean led the way with six stops. Rogoz registered 42 assists and 11 digs, while Matthew Ng '08 and Ryan G. Dean '07 anchored the back line with 15 and 14 digs, respectively.

Three Engineers reached double-doubles during the weekend as he tallied 15 kills and 12 digs to go along with four blocks against Villa Julie. Thomas S. Pollum '08 notched 13 kills and a .706 hitting percentage in addition to a team-high three aces. Michael Demyttenaere '10 contributed nine kills and seven blocks while Philip M. Rogoz '10 totaled 36 assists, eight digs, and six blocks.

MIT's five-game victory over New Paltz extended the Engineers' winning streak to 17, which broke the previous Institute record of 16 consecutive wins set in 2005. Pami dimidukkala paced Tech with 18 kills, 17 digs, and two aces while Eric R. Reuland '10 registered 14 kills and 12 aces. Pollum picked up 18 kills and four blocks as Demnytenaere led the way with six stops. Rogoz registered 42 assists and 11 digs, while Matthew Ng '08 and Ryan G. Dean '07 anchored the back line with 15 and 14 digs, respectively.

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